



DULCES ANTE OMNIA MUSÆ.



A. PIDOU.

Seraphino Giovannini del. e Sculp. in Roma.



The Front View

TRAVELS THROUGH GERMANY.

CONTAINING OBSERVATIONS ON

CUSTOMS,		COMMERCE,
MANNERS,		ARTS,
RELIGION,		AND
GOVERNMENT,		ANTIQUITIES.

With a particular Account of the
COURTS OF MECKLENBURG.

In a Series of LETTERS to a Friend,
By THOMAS NUGENT, LL.D.
FELLOW OF THE SOCIETY OF ANTIQUARIES.

Embellished with elegant CUTS of the PALACES and GARDENS
of the DUKES of MECKLENBURG.

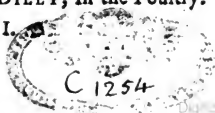
Illud est in cognitione regionum salubre ac fructiferum omnis te exempli documenta intueri ; indeque tibi, tuæque patriæ, quod imitare capias.

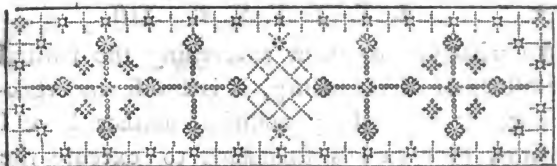
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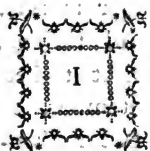




LETTER XIII.

Strelitz, October 25, 1766.

DEAR SIR,



I Confess it gives me a singular pleasure to find, that my account of the duchy of Mecklenburg has afforded you any satisfaction; and that you think it a subject worthy of the public attention. Justly have you observed that this country being in a nook of Germany, and no thoroughfare to any of the great electorates, is the reason why it has hitherto escaped the notice of most travellers. This, however, is a circumstance that may render my correspondence the more entertaining, from the novelty of the subject, which scarce has been attempted by any English writer. As

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to what you mention concerning the natural history of Mecklenburg, it is a vast undertaking, far beyond my abilities; neither have I time, or materials sufficient, to execute the task in such a manner as might entitle me to your approbation: yet I have not neglected to make every enquiry among the learned, which may enable me to give you some idea of the natural and civil history, as well as of the government and internal œconomy, of this country: but, before I proceed, it will be proper to acquaint you with a few occurrences, which have enlivened this scene, and rendered my stay at Strélitz infinitely agreeable.

Their highnesses had waited some time in anxious expectation of the news of the queen's delivery, when a messenger arrived the 11th at noon, with the joyful tidings, that her majesty had been brought to-bed of a princess on the 29th of September, at eight o'clock in the morning. The messenger's name is Mann, a young fellow; he left Harwich the 2d of October, had been four days at sea, and came from Helvoet in six days and a half. The happy intelligence was proclaimed at one, by firing off the cannon before the park. As soon as the duke and his sister appeared in the presence-chamber, all the gentlemen and ladies at court went in to pay their compliments of congratulation. Now joy was in every face without a cloud, and the happy

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py day resigned to festivity. The fortunate event was the subject of discourse during the whole time of repast, and the company, especially the ladies, all seemed pleased that her majesty, this once, had been blessed with a princess. The marshal of the court notified to us that *Te Deum* would be sung the next day, and the evening was to conclude with a ball. After dinner I went down with baron Dewitz to speak with the messenger, and was glad to find that his majesty had so wisely prohibited, in this time of scarcity, the farther exportation of corn. Baron Dewitz made him a present in the duke's name, and M. Reinhard and I went to walk in the garden. Thence we adjourned to Dr. Hempel's, where that gentleman's agreeable daughter, after treating us with sweetmeats and champagne, amused us some time with vocal and instrumental music. At six we went to court, where we found the company assembled in the grand saloon. The duke and his sister came in soon after, and his highness was dressed in silver tiffue. The band of music is very good, and the two Italian singers, Mrs. Coghoen and Mrs. Sonnen, perform extremely well. The duke seeing me very attentive to Mrs. Coghoen, asked me how I liked her singing; and I expressed that approbation which she so justly deserves. There were several card-tables; but it is a pity there should be any such diversion at a

concert : for it is impossible to give due attention either to the music or to one's game, especially at whist. This the duke himself observed to me ; but he does not chuse to alter an old established custom. The princess stayed to supper, and at the usual hour the company retired.

On the morrow, which was Sunday, after breakfasting with baron Dewitz and his lady, I went to chapel between ten and eleven, where I found the duke with all the ladies and officers of the court in their gala dresses. Their cloaths indeed were very rich, glittering with gold lace and embroidery. The duke was in a tribune by himself fronting the altar, dressed in crimson velvet, white stockings, and the order of the garter. The weather being somewhat sharp the princess did not come to chapel, but had prayers in her own apartment. The marshal of the court placed me next to himself in the same gallery with baron Dewitz and the other officers belonging to the court. The ladies were in the opposite gallery by themselves. Captain Norman lent me one of their common-prayer books, wherein they have a great number of hymns, and the Psalms in verse. The service was performed with the utmost regularity and devotion, the music was heavenly, and the swelling organ filled the rising soul. I may truly affirm, that
never

never in my life did I see a congregation behave with more fervency and devotion. After prayers the superintendant Masch, who had officiated all the time, preached an excellent sermon, which lasted above an hour. There were several communicants, and among the rest a good many foldiers, whose edifying behaviour I could not but admire. I observed a lady at the sacrament, dressed much like a nun, all in black, except her head, over which she wore a white veil, with a piece of black crape on her forehead. This lady I heard was madam de Chassau, then in deep mourning for her husband lately deceased. She is sister to baron Boehmen, and her husband was brother to M. de Chassau, commandant of Lubeck. The service concluded with *Te Deum*, which was sung to the sound of hautboys, kettle-drums, and trumpets. After the trumpet had summoned us to dinner, the duke and the princess made their appearance, and the company, which was very brilliant, took their places. All the nobility of the town were invited. It is impossible to express the joy flushing in their countenances, or the innocent hilarity of their conversation; I leave it to your own imagination to form an idea of it. The entertainment was elegant and splendid, consisting of the richest wines, and choicest dainties, that could be contrived to please the palate. During our repast, the duke stood

up to drink several healths, as those of the king and queen of Great Britain, the new-born princess, &c. the company likewise rising ; and every toast was accompanied with the clangor of trumpets and a discharge of cannon. During the whole time we were at dinner, the band of music played in the gallery. At coffee, M. Krohne the intelligencer came up to me, and shewed me a copy of Latin verses, which he said he had written extempore on the joyful occasion. I gave them with his permission to baron Dewitz, who presented them to the duke ; and after some little merriment, the duke in his good humour was pleased to reward M. Krohne by an augmentation of his salary from 350 to 400 dollars. The generosity of the prince was more incited by the occasion than by the poetry, as you may easily judge from the following copy.

E X T E M P O R A N E U M.

Ad Augustissimam ANGLIÆ Reginam.

*Posteaquam CAROLUS Primus regnaverat Anglos,
Filia non nata est patre regia sceptrā tenente.
Quarta tibi proles jam non est mascula nata.
Arridet Regina tuo cur Filia Regi ?
Haud satis est ut des orbi Regina Monarchas,
Reginas pietatē pares Matri quoque profers.*

Ad

Ad Ducem.

*Ecce præt Regina tibi; Dux æmule fac sic
Quartum ad hoc exemplum, tua tota Megapolis orat.*

Neostrelitzia, JOHAN. WIL. DE KROHNE.
II^{ma} Oct. 1766.

*Dum hora duodecima Pomeridiana, Cursor Londi-
nensis de Regina 29 Septembris felicissime enisa serenif-
simo Duci Megapolitano notitiam attulit gratissimam.*

What think you of those verses? I fancy you will not say of them what Scaliger did of some lines of Horace *, *Quarum similes malim composuisse, quam esse totius Tarraconensis rex.*

After dinner I adjourned with M. Reinhard to Dr. Hempel's, where we passed the time agreeably till six, when we went to court. The company was very brilliant; the gentlemen were in silk dominos, but no masks. The duke and the princess opened the ball with a minuet, which they danced to admiration. It is impossible to have a more graceful attitude than the princess, or a more noble air and better step than his highness. The princess did not join in the country dances, on account of her health: but the duke danced the whole evening, as well minuets as country dances; and he is certainly very fond of this diversion.

* *Quem tu Melpomene semel, &c. Od. III. l. 4. and
Donec gratus eram tibi, &c. Od. IX. l. 3.*

At the desire of some ladies, I played a game or two at whist; but my attention to the music and dancing prevented me from minding my game. Here I made acquaintance with Mademoiselle Calenburg, a lady endowed with wit and good sense. She is niece of madam de Voss, and seems to be between thirty and forty. No lady can be better tempered, or behave with more politeness. She has an uncommon share of vivacity, and repartee at command; so that it was impossible not to be delighted with her sprightly conversation. At nine we went to supper. The princess as well as baron Dewitz and his lady stayed, and the evening was crowned with the highest mirth and joy.

A few days after this happy news, baron Plessé, captain in the duke of Brunswick's guards, came to pay a visit to his younger brother captain Plessé, equerry to the duke of Strelitz. He was accompanied by two young British officers, captain Graham and captain Anstruther, who, upon the conclusion of the peace, thought it conducive to their improvement to go abroad, and had been some time at the court of Brunswick. They are very agreeable gentlemen, sensible and polite, such as do honour to their country. The duke and his sister received them with that affability which characterizes all their actions; and no pains are spared to procure them amusement.

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The birth of the young princess being made public, the states of the province held an assembly, in order to depute a certain number of their body, to congratulate his highness on so happy an event. The persons chosen for this commission, were the barons Warburg and Bredow, and captain Keyserling for the nobility, and the burgomasters Schroder and Wulffelff for the burghers. They came to lodge in the same inn with me at M. Strubing's. Three of these gentlemen I had known already, viz. baron Warburg, captain Keyserling, and M. Schroder. They had heard of my being in the same house; and M. Schroder insisted on my spending the evening with them. I was obliged to comply, and thought myself very happy in their company. M. Schroder introduced me to baron Bredow, of whom I had heard much talk. This gentleman is of a gigantic stature, has a handsome face, and fresh complexion: his disposition is remarkably chearful; he is supremely fond of good cheer and jollity, and never more happy than when he entertains his friends. His seat lies about six miles from hence, at a very pleasant village on the Tollensee, known by the name of Prilwitz, to which he has given me a very kind invitation.

The next morning I breakfasted with the deputies, and went afterwards with them in their coach to court, where they were to address

dress his highness upon the joyful occasion. I saw baron Dewitz before they entered the presence-chamber, and observed to him, that I believed baron Warburg, having so strong a voice, would make a very loud harangue. Baron Dewitz smiled, and told me I need not be afraid of his voice; for however loud it may be at his own table, or among his equals, it would be lowered in the duke's presence. And indeed so I found it. The deputies entered the duke's apartment between twelve and one; his highness received them standing; they bowed very profoundly, and baron Warburg spoke so low, that though I was in the room, I could not rightly distinguish what he said. I only heard him now and then mention the queen's name with profound reverence. The address was short, and the duke's answer also concise. He thanked them for their kind address, and assured them of his protection. They dined afterwards at court; but I observed that none of them sat near the duke; and as the princess did not come that day to dinner, his highness had Mademoiselle Dewitz on his right, and madam Kosboth on his left. The entertainment was splendid as usual, and every thing passed with great decorum. The deputies were all together; I sat next baron Warburg, and even here he seemed afraid to raise his voice; so that their conversation passed in whispers. After dinner captain Plesse invited the

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the deputies, the British officers, and myself, to pass the afternoon at his house. Accordingly we went, and were very merry over punch and wine, when in the midst of our entertainment the duke came in and agreeably surprized us. The band of music appeared at the door by his highness's order, and entertained our ears with the sweetest harmony, while our palates were feasted with exquisite liquors. The duke was in a very good humour, and proposed a game of cards, for he does not like drinking. This continued till six, when we adjourned to court, where the deputies were entertained with a ball. Part of the company went to dancing, and others to cards. I had the honour of being of a party at whist with her highness the princess, madam Winnemer, and baron Dewitz. Her highness plays exceeding well, and so do the others too ; but for my part, besides being but an indifferent player, my attention was diverted by the dancing and the music. It was my lot to be partner with baron Dewitz, who finding me so inattentive to my game, rated me soundly. The princess smiled, and with great good-nature said, *il ne faut pas le gronder tant*. And, indeed, the more he reprimanded, the more I was confounded ; so that I was heartily glad, when the sound of the trumpet put an end to our game. During our repast we were all very chearful, and at the usual hour

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we retired. I went home with the deputies, and sat with them in their apartment, chatting for above an hour; then took my final leave of them, as they were to set out early the next morning for New Brandenburg, and I for Old Strelitz.

The preceding day I had received a letter from my friend M. Pistorius, mentioning that he should be glad to meet me at Old Strelitz. I acquainted M. Masch the superintendant, with this news; and as he had a little business in that town with M. Eggers, the pastor, he said he would accompany me thither. He ordered his chariot in the morning, for his brother-in-law, a clergyman, and me; but he chose to ride himself on horseback. His brother-in-law is a very agreeable looking gentleman, lately recovered from a fit of illness. The superintendant rode a mettlesome horse, which however he managed very cavalierly, and wore a brown coat with a jockey-cap. The distance is but two miles, and the road pretty good; so that we were not long on our journey. We lighted at M. Eggers, who received us very cordially. Advice was given of our arrival to M. Pistorius, who came directly to M. Egger's, and we embraced one another with great tenderness. After we had drunk coffee, M. Pistorius and I went to M. Tangatz, burgomaster of the town, to pay our compliments, and desire a sight of the original deed

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of the foundation of Old Strelitz, which was in his possession. M. Tangatz is a well-built gentleman, about fifty, of a middling stature, brown complexion, and pitted pretty much with the small-pox. He is endowed with good sense, a generous disposition, and a great share of integrity. We easily obtained what we wanted; and it seemed to be a higher pleasure for him to grant, than for us to receive the favour. It is a deed of privileges, granted by the founders, Otho and Ulric, counts of Furstenberg, ancestors of baron Dewitz. The language is Low-dutch, and it is dated on St. Barbara's day, A. D. 1349. The burgo-master gave me a copy of it, which M. Pistorius and I collated with the original. The same gentleman promised me also an account of the cavalcade, that attended her majesty from hence, when she set out for England. I thanked him very kindly, and told him I should be obliged to him for any papers concerning her majesty, or her august family.

We went afterwards to take a view of the town, of the ruins of the old palace burnt down in 1712, and of the Jewish synagogue; of all which I gave you an account in a former letter. When we had finished our perambulation, we returned to M. Eggers, who had provided us a handsome dinner. M. Eggers is a well-looking gentleman, good-natured and complaisant, and united in great friendship

ship with the superintendant. He is a bachelor, but has a sister that lives with him, a very agreeable gentlewoman. After dinner he played on the spinnet, at which he is no bad hand. Night drawing near, we were preparing to depart, when M. Pistorius acquainted me, that he had received a letter from a friend of his in the electorate of Brandenburg, who was desirous of having an interview with me. This is the learned and rev. M. Buckholtz, pastor of the church of Lychen, in the Ucker Marche, a gentleman who has acquired great reputation by an Abridgment of the History of Mecklenburg, and a much greater by his History of the marquisate of Brandenburg. The abridgment of the History of Mecklenburg I have by me, and it is a valuable composition, being very exact as to facts and chronology. The History of Brandenburg I have not seen; but M. Pistorius assures me it is in high esteem, and that the author has had a letter of thanks for it from the king of Prussia, in that prince's own handwriting. I told M. Pistorius that I should be proud of the honour of seeing M. Buckholtz; and whenever he pleased to give me notice, I should be sure to meet him. We parted, and the superintendant, his brother, and I returned to New Strelitz. I supped that evening at court, and the duke was so good as to invite me the next morning to breakfast with him, in order to shew me his cabinet of curiosities.

I waited

I waited on the duke at nine in the morning, and was received in a most gracious manner. His highness was standing in his morning dress, a mantle of blue velvet edged with gold lace. The gentleman in waiting immediately brought in coffee and bread and butter, on which we breakfasted.

The cabinet is pretty large, and richly furnished with paintings. Toys and curiosities of all sorts were displayed in abundance, stones, gems, cameos, and intaglios ; but what I most admired, were two fine vases painted by the great Raphael. The colouring is very good, but the figures of Charity, Justice, &c. are exquisitely beautiful. On this occasion his highness also shewed me a gold-hilted sword set with diamonds, which her majesty sent him over as a present. About ten the duke asked me to take an airing with him in his chariot : to which, as you may imagine, I readily consented. The coachman was ordered to drive to Torwitz, a little village on the other side of the lake of Strelitz, where his highness has a pretty summer-house.

The road is sandy, but pleasant enough when you approach the lake. The duke would not suffer me to sit uncovered, but made use of his favourite saying, " I hate constraint myself, and therefore constrain no man." It is impossible to express the good-nature and affability of this amiable prince. He told me that he is naturally fond of company,

pany, the very reverse of his cousin the duke of Mecklenburg Schwerin. Concerning baron Dewitz he mentioned several particulars very entertaining, which happened during their travels in France and Italy. In less than half an hour we reached Torwitz, where we lighted at the summer-house. It is very pleasantly seated near the side of the lake, and serves for drinking tea or coffee in a summer afternoon. There is a pretty large room, which has been lately new floored, where his highness sometimes has company to dance. The building is very simple, void of all decoration. As there was no fire, the duke did not think it prudent to stay there long; so that we reached the palace again by twelve o'clock. Before dinner a nobleman was introduced to his highness, viz. count Bassewitz, a relation of the minister of that name at the court of the duke of Schwerin, and lately come from Vienna. He is a tall portly man, of a swarthy complexion, and austere countenance. By his looks I should apprehend him to be between fifty and sixty. He is a man of very good parts, but unsteady. For though he has been in different employs at several courts of Germany, as at Dresden, Bareith, &c. he never continued long in a place; and lately he solicited to be a member of the Aulic council of Vienna, but did not succeed. Disappointed and chagrined

grined he is going now to live at Rostock, where he has a good house and estate. I sat very near this nobleman at table, and had the pleasure of enjoying a good deal of his conversation. I observed that the ladies of honour all wear the duke's picture in miniature hanging at their breasts. While we were at table the duke sent one of the pages, to shew me a gold snuff-box with his sister's picture set in diamonds. It is extremely rich and of elegant workmanship, so that I could not help paying it the compliment it deserved. A good part of the afternoon I spent at baron Dewitz's, with the two British officers, whom the baron had invited to drink a glass of Champagne; but he appointed me to a very hard office, viz. to act as his deputy in doing the honours of the glass; for his constitution will not permit him to deviate from the strictest regularity. At the usual time we went to court, and I had the honour of playing with his highness, captain Anstruther, and madam Kosboth. In the midst of our game the duke gave us some-plumb cake, which was some of the best I ever tasted. Between ten and eleven we retired, and count Bassewitz and I lodging in the same inn, went home in the same coach. I sat with him a good while after we got home, and had an opportunity of learning from a man of his experience a great many curious anecdotes.

Early the next morning I received a packet from burgomaster Tangatz, with the following letter, and the annexed papers, which I have thought proper to send you, translated into English.

“ SIR,

“ ALLOW me the honour of sending
“ you an authentic account of the triumphal
“ arch which was erected in our Town-field, on
“ occasion of her majesty the queen of Eng-
“ land’s leaving our country, where streams of
“ tears flowed, both from joy and grief, for the
“ same object. Twelve children, daughters of
“ creditable burghers, under my direction,
“ joined in the solemnity, and poured forth
“ their fervent wishes to the queen; and, with
“ the highest pleasure, we see nearly all the
“ petitions of these twelve innocents accom-
“ plished. The gracious Ruler of the earth
“ and sea has conducted her safe to her
“ royal consort’s arms; and the heart of the
“ king rejoices; his people are charmed with
“ her virtues and amiable qualities; heaven has
“ likewise bestowed four blessings on the royal
“ line, and may the leaves of the branches of
“ their posterity flourish to the end of time.
“ You will likewise permit me to add, that the
“ emblem of both worlds in the front of the
“ triumphal arch, is intended to display the
“ great successes which the English nation, un-
“ der

“ der Divine Providence, obtained in the last
 “ war by their singular conduct and bravery,
 “ so that the lustre of its reputation shines with
 “ such glory in all the four parts of the world;
 “ enabling his Britannic majesty to make good
 “ the wishes of the twelve children, and turn
 “ the ravages of war into the enjoyments of
 “ peace.

“ The inscription on the hinder part of the
 “ triumphal arch alludes to the demise of the
 “ duchess-mother, who died soon after general
 “ Græme demanded the princess in marriage,
 “ and consequently did not live to be a wit-
 “ ness of her daughter’s happiness.

“ Worthy sir, I from my heart congratulate
 “ myself on the honour of being known to
 “ you, and intreat that you will be pleased
 “ to entertain a gracious remembrance of me
 “ and my twelve little damsels. I pray God
 “ preserve you in health and happiness, that
 “ you may return safe to your own country.
 “ I am, with an unalterable regard,

“ Sir, Your most oblig’d and

Strelitz, Oct. 16. 1766.

“ Devoted servant.

“ Did circumstances permit, I should strive
 “ hard for an opportunity of waiting on you
 “ in person. *Interea vivat & floreat filia Regia*
 “ *Anglicana proxime nata! vivat!*

“ *Uti supra,*

“ J. TANGATZ.”

Account of the TRIUMPHAL ARCH and CAVALCADE, in honour of her Majesty's departure from Strelitz.

THE town of Old Strelitz was desirous of expressing its regard to the illustrious princess CHARLOTTA SOPHIA, born duchess of Mecklenburg Strelitz, on her espousals to his Majesty GEORGE III. king of Great Britain, and of wishing her a happy voyage to England, at her setting out from the bounds of its territory. On the 17th of August, 1761, was erected in a plain a triumphal arch thirty-two feet in height, with two pillars in front; and close to it was a platform of 500 paces, on which were drawn up the three companies of the town militia under arms, and their colours flying. On each side of the front of the triumphal arch were two green bowers, and a tent, with variety of refreshments for the spectators; of whom there was a prodigious number from the towns in the neighbourhood, so that they covered the heights near the triumphal arch. The multitudes of persons, carriages and horses, formed a most chearful prospect, and among the spectators were the worthy magistrates of New Strelitz.

The triumphal arch was decorated with natural foliage and festoons, and over it two terrestrial globes in the geographical divisions, viz. in the first Europe, Asia, and Africa, and in the other

America. Great-Britain and Ireland were incircled with a wreath of laurel. In Europe, was the Elbe with the Havel running into it, and at the source of the latter, Mirow, as the birth-place of the Royal Bride : in Asia, the river Ganges, with its many mouths, the province of Coromandel and Pondicherry : in Africa, the Senegal, and at its issue Fort Lewis : in America, the river St. Laurence with Quebec, likewise the Mississippi : in the Leeward and Windward Islands, Mariegalante, Guadaloupe, and Dominica, all marked in capital letters, as having been reduced by the British fleet. The two globes were surmounted with the arms of Great Britain and Mecklenburg joined. On the backpart of the triumphal arch were represented Autumn and Spring, in their attributes of ripe fruits and flowers, with an inscription to the following effect.

Pomona soon succeeds to Flora,

And the bridal chamber supersedes the grave.

On each side, within the triumphal arch, stood six reputable townsmen's daughters, between eleven and twelve years of age, in white jackets-and-petticoats, with light-blue ribbons, and their hair dressed in natural flowers. Each had in her hand a wreath of myrtle something above the bigness of a crown, thus waiting the princess's coming.

On the skirt of our field towards New Strelitz stood a captain of our town horse, in a blue uniform, with sixteen troopers, in order to join the cavalcade attending on her royal highness, and conduct them to the above-mentioned platform.

This illustrious procession was headed by marshal Zesterfleth, with two running footmen : then came in coaches and six our beloved sovereign the duke, with his brother prince Charles, attended by several running footmen, and a body of horse-guards ; and as they passed through the triumphal arch, the burghers saluted them with their arms, colours, and music.

After the march of the horse came the royal bride herself, in a coach of state drawn by six horses, the princess her sister sitting on her left hand, and in the front of the coach the countess Cocceius, spouse to the nobleman of that name, the eminent lord chancellor of Prussia. Her royal highness was pleased to stop under the triumphal arch ; and, after an address delivered by burgomaster Tangatz, in the name of the corporation and citizens, condescended, with the most endearing complacency, to hear the children repeat their congratulatory verses ; after which, with a graceful respect and sprightliness, they threw their myrtle wreaths to her highness into the coach. She expressed her satisfaction in those gracious terms which were
ever

ever natural to her, and by which, in her tender years, she conciliated the unalterable love and esteem of all ranks.

After her royal highness immediately followed a party of twelve of the horse-guards, an empty state coach and six, the earl of Harcourt with his son likewise in a coach and six, and who was observed to view with sensible pleasure both the emblem over the triumphal arch, and the twelve children who had acquitted themselves so handsomely, and gave each of them a ducat; after the earl came Mr. counsellor Hardenburg from Hanover: the cavalcade was closed by near thirty coaches, and every thing passed suitably to the joyful occasion.

ADDRESS of the Burgomasters, Magistrates, and Citizens of STRELITZ to her Royal Highness the most illustrious Princess SOPHIA CHARLOTTA, Duchess of Mecklenburg, Princess of Wenden, Schwerin, and Ratzeburgh, and Countess of Schwerin, and the countries of Rostock and Stargard, on her leaving the territories of the said city, in her way to England, as the Royal Bride of his most potent and most illustrious Majesty GEORGE III. King of Great Britain, &c. &c.

ILLUSTRIOUS Duchess, most gracious Princess and Lady, your Royal Highness is at present leaving that country whose happiness

it has hitherto been to admire in you the model of a perfect princess. You leave it to share with the greatest monarch in Europe a throne respected through every part of the universe. The instant is at hand when your Royal Highness will, for ever, be withdrawn from our eyes. This affects us the more sensibly from the apprehension that the many great and brilliant objects with which you will henceforth be encircled, will efface so small a place as ours, from your inestimable remembrance ; yet that goodness which we have hitherto with transport admired in your Royal Highness, revives our spirits: it assures us that you will, even from the throne, condescend graciously to look back on our town, and continue the patroness of those, whose happiness it is to be the subjects of your illustrious family. We therefore in full confidence give ourselves up to that lively joy excited in us all, on the glorious union to which the Divine Providence has called your royal Highness, and beg leave to accompany you with our most cordial wishes for your safe journey, and continual welfare and prosperity.

May the Eternal Ruler of all things, who hath appointed this great event, make your Royal Highness the most perfect instance of felicity ; the delight of that Royal Family into which you are now entering, the joy of Britain,

tain, and the glory of the illustrious House of Mecklenburg.

May our illustrious soveraign, the beloved ADOLPHUS FREDERIC, long and in all earthly happiness, together with his faithful and happy subjects, rejoice in these felicities!

Your Royal Highness will graciously permit that twelve of our daughters, here present in the attire of Innocence, may, as a memorial of this fortunate event, second the ardent sentiments of their fathers, and in artless words most humbly wish you a safe and pleasant journey.

Aug. 27. 1761.

I.

(ELEONORA DOROTHEA MARIA BERTZHOVEN.)

HAIL princess, with each shining virtue bright,
All pure within, without all glorious light;
Whose form divine, whose goodness we adore;
Heaven bless thy parting from the German shore.

2.

(CHRISTIANA JULIANA ELIZABETH BERENDSEN.)

As consort of a mighty monarch shine,
Restore the honours of an antient line;
For this thy coming Britain's king invites,
For this he calls to Hymen's soft delights.

3.

DOROTHEA ELIZABETH TETTINGEN.

Thy soul with each divinest virtue fraught,
Thy wisdom perfect both in word and thought;
Each British bosom shall with raptures fire,
And Faction sleep whilst gazing crowds admire.

4. (So-

4.

(SOPHIA ELIZABETH GRADHANDLEN.)

When seated by thy royal consort's side,
 New lustre he shall gain from such a bride.
 Her worth shall grace the sacred nuptial ties,
 And Britain's throne in dignity shall rise.

5.

(CAROLINA HENRIETTA TANGATZ.)

O God, whose mercies through the world abound,
 Whose power supports the king thy hand has crown'd ;
 Waft o'er the main the bride's transcendent charms
 In safety to the bridegroom's longing arms.

6.

(DOROTHEA GAUEN.)

May she with each endearing art possess,
 To pleasure ever sooth the monarch's breast ;
 May all the royal virtues of her heart
 To faithful subjects joy sincere impart.

7.

(ANNA MARIA ELIZABETH CHRISTEN.)

Britons, rejoice ; receive with loud acclaim
 SOPHIA CHARLOTTE, ever dear to Fame ;
 Delight of Mecklenburg, she comes to shower
 On Britain's Isle new blessings every hour.

8.

(CHRISTINA SOPHIA SOALOW.)

From Ganges to where Mississippi flows,
 Diffusing wealth and plenty as it goes ;
 From Senegal still scorched by Phœbus' beam
 To where St. Lawrence rolls his silver stream,
 Proclaim Britannia's bliss the world around,
 From pole to pole, to earth's remotest bound.

9. CHRIS-

9.

(CHRISTINA ELIZABETH PHUELEN.)

Its wish auspicious Havel hastes to bring
For fair CHARLOTTA and for Britain's king ;
On Britain's isle all blessings he implores,
And rolls his friendly wave to Albion's shores.

10.

(DOROTHEA CHRISTIANA ELIZABETH REISEKEN.)

Beneath the Lord's anointed may she thrive,
Still may his influence keep the palm alive :
Still may it flourish, branches still extend,
Afford us shelter, and from heat defend.

11.

(MAGDALEN ELIZABETH COLTERJAHN.)

Thrice happy bride, who soon shall cross the main,
Whom to behold again we wish in vain ;
May happiness unceasing with thee dwell ;
To every age may Fame thy glory tell.

12.

(CATHARINA SOPHIA BERTROWEN.)

Nought can our brothers ardent zeal restrain ;
Fain would they tempt with thee the roaring main :
Permit them, queen, thy person to be near,
That of thy safety tidings we may hear.

(CHORUS.)

Yet for one favour more we must apply,
But little can these barren tracts supply ;
Permit us, since both gold and pearls you scorn,
Your royal brows with myrtle to adorn.

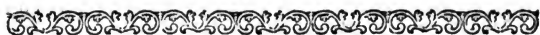
[These verses were translated into English by a gentleman in this country, whose name I am not at liberty to mention. I give you this hint to make an allowance for the versification; and you must be satisfied with being assured, that the translation conveys the sense of the original.]

I have

I have given you, my dear friend, the whole contents of this packet, flattering myself that they will afford some entertainment to you, as they have done to me; for I assure you I am not a little pleased with the cavalcade and the poetical effusions of the pretty young damsels. In my next I propose transmitting to you a short description of this country, with some account of its natural and civil history, its constitution and internal œconomy. You may depend on my exactness and fidelity in this relation, as well as on the sincerity with which I subscribe myself,

Dear Sir, yours. &c.

L E T-



L E T T E R XIV.

Strelitz, November 1, 1766.

DEAR SIR,

IN conformity to my promise I send you a description of the duchy of Mecklenburg ; and shall observe to you, by the way, that this description is founded not only on my own observation and reading, but on the many conversations I have had with the principal literati and persons of intelligence throughout this country.

The duchy of Mecklenburg is situated in the circle of Lower Saxony, between 53 degrees 10 minutes and 54 degrees 40 minutes north latitude, and between 31 degrees and 34 degrees 35 minutes west longitude from the isle of Ferro. Its greatest length is about 135 geographical miles ; and its breadth about 90. It is bounded by the Baltic on the north, by Pomerania on the east, by the marquisate of Brandenburg on the south, by the bishopric of Lubeck and the

the territories of Brunfwick and Lunenburg on the weft. Few countries are fo well watered as this, having feveral fine rivers, and a number of beautiful lakes. The principal rivers are the Elbe, the Stoer, the Elde, the Warnow, the Reckenitz, the Peene, the Mildenitz, the Nebel, and the Havel. The chief lakes are thofe of Muritz, Calpin, Plauer, Schwerin, Krakow, Malchin, Sternberg, Cummerow, and Tollenfee.

The foil of this duchy, efpecially in the middle and towards the north, rivals moft others for fertility, yielding plenty of corn, flax, hemp, and all forts of fruit. The country is diverfified with hills and dales, and enriched with woods, in which there is fine timber, and plenty of game. There are meadows affording good pafture for cattle, in which the country abounded before the late calamitous mortality. They have numerous flocks of fheep, by which they are fupplied with plenty of wool. They have a good breed of horfes, but not very large; and prodigious herds of fwine. Towards the fouth, bordering on the electorate of Brandenburg, the foil is fandy; and in other places there are heaths, with fome moors and fens. The country produces no vines, and fcarcely affords any mines or minerals. In the neighbourhood of Newftadt they have fome iron ore, and an allum mine not far from Eldena.

It

It is the opinion of the learned of this country, that a large arm of the Baltic, which at present only washes the boundaries, extended itself through the middle of Mecklenburg. However extraordinary this may appear, nothing is more probable. You cannot be ignorant of the great difference between ancient geography and the present state of the earth: the former places waters, lakes, and the ocean, where now we meet with dry land: cities which stood along the sea-shore, and were celebrated for maritime power and commerce, are now some leagues up the country. But I must observe to you, that the Tollen lake, which begins at a village in this neighbourhood called Prilwitz, and at New Brandenburg becomes a river, has to this very day a communication with the sea, by its influx into the Peene. From the village of Prilwitz, a lofty shore runs on both sides of the Tollen lake, forming a bed to that extensive body of water. Near New Brandenburg there is such another lofty inclosure, surrounding on both sides the tract called the *Werder*; and between these heights is a plain lying horizontally with the Tollen lake; and in this plain stands New Brandenburg itself. Farther in the center is a running water surrounding that whole *Werder*; so that the present plain lies in the bed of a lake, which has lost the greatest part

part of its waters. Were it possible to hinder the issue of the Haff at Wolgast and Schwinemund in Pomerania, in a short time the whole plain on which New Brandenburg stands, together with all the rich pastures, which extend themselves horizontally through Mecklenburg and Pomerania along the Peene, would be overflowed, and the old bed of the arm of the Baltic be again navigable. This is farther corroborated by other appearances. It is a known fact throughout this country, that in the pastures within the bed which communicates with the Tollen lake, many naval implements, as anchors and masts, have been found by the turf-diggers. Now there could by no means be any such thing, had not all this tract of pasturage once been a navigable water, or an arm of the Baltic. Besides, in this tract are still found lakes of a prodigious depth, which are not yet closed up; likewise many places, which, tho' practicable by man and beast, yield nevertheless to every step; and, on taking a pole, and pushing it thro' the herbage and congestions that cover the surface, so far from finding a bottom, the pole gradually sinks till quite lost: a proof that in many parts, under the surface of the pastures, there are large pieces of water.

Every one knows, and instances of it abound, that surfaces of lakes become closed, whilst waters remain beneath. The little stunted furz
grow-

growing on moors denote such closed lakes. I am credibly informed that in records of five or six hundred years standing, the country between the pastures lying horizontally with the Tollen lake, between Friedland, Treptow, and New Brandenburg, were called *Insula*. Had this country been no more surrounded with water than at present, the appellation of *Insula* could not have been given it with any propriety. But admitting all this tract to have been an arm of the Baltic, there was indeed sufficient grounds for calling it an island.

Should I be asked what is become of this water, I answer two ways. First, It is known that waters become overgrown ; the roots of the duckweed, lake lentils, nettles, and other aquatic herbs, shoot among each other, and receive the dust or sand, together with leaves, and grafs, and moss seeds, which are driven about by the wind. These growing up together form a surface of some compactness ; and thus those parts may come to be a verdant plain, which at first were clear water. Secondly, the depth of the bed, and the high shore, shew that the water in former times was actually higher. Experience demonstrates that the inland waters rise with those of the ocean. It has been observed in Sweden, a century ago, that this part of the ocean decreases every year. Now, if we recur to 1000 or 2000 years, it will easily

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appear

appear that the Baltic may have been at such a height, that New Brandenburg plains, as far as Demmin and Anclam, were covered with water, which since the decrease of the Baltic, has gradually been ebbing away.

The present form and appearance of this country is supposed by most of the literati to have been owing to an earthquake, if not to a succession of such convulsions. The grounds of this conjecture I shall explain to you in their own way of reasoning, which is very plausible.

The bottom of the lakes generally is a sand; if in some few it be of another quality, as slime, or mud, under the mud one meets with a bottom consisting chiefly of sand, and likewise of quartz particles, which are not soluble in water. The country about New Strelitz appears, from the course of the rivers, to be the highest in all the circle of Stargard. All rivers lying northward flow from that quarter, and those towards the south have their current in a southern direction; yet the highest part of Mecklenburg anciently lay at the bottom of the sea. To what then less than an earthquake can we impute its being raised out of that bottom? If we survey the hills extending along the Tollen lake, they exhibit the plainest traces of running streams, which emptied themselves into that body of water. On investigating

vestigating these hills, they are found to consist entirely of such strata and beds, as plainly evince that these mounds were formerly fluid, and that the concretion and combination of them is owing to the gradual ebbing away of the waters. Under the surface of the ground near New Strelitz vast quantities of stones are found at the depth of more than six feet; and among them are a great many petrifications, or whole masses of shells of all kinds incorporated with clayey or corneous substances. This likewise proves the soil to have once been so soft, that stones of any weight subsided to the bottom; and that between the stones shells have gathered, which in process of time are become petrified in the calcareous earth.

Hence it is probable, that the ground which at present bears, and nourishes the inhabitants, was formerly a deep lake, and a part of the Baltic; but that being thrown up by an earthquake, the water at the same time, by the violence of the agitation filling the Tollen lake, together with all places horizontal to it, and these in process of time becoming overgrown, the country is partly thereby, and partly by the decrease of the Baltic, become dry and practicable.

Thus the country about New Strelitz is supposed by these philosophers to be risen from the sea. The town itself stands at the end of a small peninsula, joined to the continent only

by an isthmus. The waters about it, though most of them but narrow, yet uniting in a continued stream, the country is properly called a peninsula. From a fen northward rises a spring, soon forming a stream, and runs into the Zirker lake, which, on the west side, washes the town, and the gardens of the ducal palace.

The country where the town stands, is said to be very much altered in its appearance; so that they who saw it thirty or forty years ago, would hardly know it again. Mountains, vallies, fens, marshes, woods, were interspersed one among another, when the duke resolved to turn the delightful hunting-seat of *Glineke* into a palace. By the hands of laborious industry, hills were levelled, vallies filled up, fens drained, marshes made practicable, and the country decorated with limes, chesnut, and variety of fruit-trees.

In the soil about New Strelitz, nature has indeed shewed itself a step-mother. The surface, generally speaking, is sandy; but the gardens, rich in all manner of esculent fruits, besides pleasant walks of useful trees, do the more honour to human skill and diligence. The ducal gardens especially, are a glorious evidence of what may be atchieved by art and perseverance. The swampy and marshy parts have been made fit for culture; some improved
into

into gardens, and may indeed be in some measure called floating gardens; being made on fens, which once were open ponds, and only overgrown with aquatic herbage: some are brought to afford plenty of excellent hay; and others contain an inexhaustible store of turf. The most is made of every thing; and spots which elsewhere would be accounted beneath notice, are here improved to considerable advantage. Were the number of men and their industry in other more fruitful countries equal to what is seen here, how prodigiously would they be enriched! If labour and diligence can in so ungrateful a soil raise such products, what may not be accomplished where bounteous nature, as it were, invites the hand of industry! The upper part of the earth about New Strelitz varies in quality. The nearest to the surface is generally sandy, but in many parts considerably meliorated by the air, and the maceration of plants. Sand, white, yellow and red; loam, with red and yellow clays, and veins of lime, lye intermixed in an undulated disposition. In the hills, beds of them are found within half a foot of the surface: and in levelling those hills a singular variety of such fossils was discovered. The water which is found in great plenty among these strata, is excellent, and of a charming brightness, to which doubtless its course

along the sands must in no small measure contribute.

According to the usual property of sandy countries, here are large quantities of stone; but by the great encrease of buildings, and the paving of the streets, it is so far diminished, that the hills have been opened for a farther supply, and they are found to afford very extensive quarries. Appearances show this ground to have been ejected out of the sea in a state of fluidity, the stones having sunk to a considerable depth. But uncommon quantities being by the course of the waters continually carried and lodged among the sand, put a stop to its fluidity. From these congestions of sand arose the great number of hills hereabouts, lying contiguous to one another, and plainly exhibiting the traces of a running water. The stones are of different kinds.

The principal are, 1. The flint, properly so called, which is commonly conceived an original stone, though I shall presently introduce an observation towards explaining this problem.

2. Sand stones, some of which have already acquired such a hardness as not to be easily broken. Others are softer, others little more than a white lax sand, within an indurated crust; others again are full of black flakes, beginning to granulate; and these flakes are ferruginous.

Horn.

3. Horn-stone, or properly fire-stone, of a brown colour, and whilst under ground, quite soft, but soon indurated by lying in the air. In these are found great numbers of petrifications, as echinites, belemnites, &c.

4. Marbles, distinguishable by their hardness and beauty, and likewise containing petrifications. You know that marbles were at first a soft impressible mass, which gradually hardened into stone. This kind of stone is filled with innumerable petrifications, and found in the mountains hereabouts between beds of flints, and in such plenty, that in two days a whole cart-load of such marble might be collected. Many pieces, which would be highly valued by virtuoso's, are daily used by the masons. I shall only mention a few.

1. Red marble speckled with green, ferruginous, and so hard as to receive a fine polish. I have seen a piece of it that might make the leaf of a small table; and on both sides full of large orthoceratites.

2. A grey marble, in which are lituites above a foot in length.

3. Grey marble, with corals, turbinites, tudelites, trochites, and an infinite variety of marine shells, all so hard as to be polishable. There are besides great quantities, not yet come to perfection; and indeed, to acquire their complete hardness, they must have remained in the quarry some centuries longer.

The following shew the earths of which they consist.

1. Of yellow lime with a variety of shells.
2. Of loam and lime, and likewise shells, as terebratulites, pectinites, chamites, and the greater part still with their natural shells. Others contain large conchæ trilobæ. In others are found many small orthoceratites.
3. Of fleaky earths. Of these I have seen pieces with lituites, and others which shew more than one kind of the conchæ trilobæ.

Such a quantity of marine petrifications in the mountains, amidst the flints, seems farther to confirm the conjecture of the literati, that this part of Mecklenburg was thrown up from the bottom of the sea by an earthquake.

4. Ochreous stones, to which particularly belongs the ætites or the eagle-stone. Large pieces of ochre are likewise found, but so intermixed with sand as not to be used in painting.

In the strata affording much lime, are stones, which when burned make a very good gyps; and in one of them was found a large piece of very fine talc.

I mentioned to you before, that it is not yet fully determined whether flints be originally stone. The general opinion supposes them to be fragments of rock, and their roundness to proceed from their being abraded and driven about by the force of water. But some experiments

riments render it probable that flints undergo a gradual formation.

A ferruginous juice incorporating with the sand, occasions an increment in the coalition of the grains of sand with one another, and they assume a black colour. The granules are not yet so intimately concreted, but they may be triturated by the finger. Many stones of this kind are found here among the sand-hills; and these, if I may be allowed the expression, are the germ or elementary substance of a flint.

Farther, I am told, there are places where the black parts are become something larger, and have white spateous specks. These are met with in those parts where the sand is impregnated with lime. Whilst this stone remains in the moist earth, it is so soft as to be friable. But after being exposed only a few days to the air, the coat of it becomes of some hardness. On breaking it, the internal part is found soft; but this likewise soon hardens in the air. This I call the second degree of the formation of the flint, that is, when a calcareous juice insinuates itself with the incorporated sand and iron, and thus fills the interstices between the sandy parts with spat. If the calcareous juice be in any great quantity, it not only penetrates thro' the interstices of the sandy particles, but makes itself ducts, serpentine in the stone like white veins. I have seen such a stone,
which

which at first was quite soft, but is now extremely hard, and in which the origination of a flint may be very clearly observed. As our body is interwoven with a great number of ducts, so likewise is this stone variegated with many calcareous veins, some running into each other, then separating, and forming innumerable cells and meanders. In these cells lie the black grains of sand intermixed with spat, and these ferruginous sands and spats constitute the substance of the stone. Now on viewing a flint stone closely, and especially through a microscope, it is seen to consist of black and white granules, with a great number of white veins. From the similarity it may be therefore concluded, that flint stones are originated from the sand.

So much for the soil and fossils of this country ; I shall now give you some account of the state of cultivation, especially in what relates to agriculture. This you are very sensible is one of the principal and most necessary arts, without which the human race could scarce subsist. It is the most innocent and most natural profession, the chief and most certain source of the wealth of a state ; for a land to grow rich without a diligent application to agriculture, there must be a very extraordinary concurrence of fortunate circumstances. Experience has manifested that even trade and manufactures cannot

cannot enrich a country under a neglect of agriculture. And this is easily conceived, as when a country has such a sufficiency of corn from itself, that it can spare great quantities to foreigners, the balance must necessarily be to its advantage, that is, if trade and manufactures contribute their quota; for if these do not flourish proportionably, the country loses what it must pay to foreigners, and this much exceeds what it gains from them by selling its raw products, of which the duchy of Mecklenburg is a melancholy instance. If, on the contrary, in a state where trade and manufactures are in high vogue, agriculture is neglected, such a country gradually ruins itself; for, besides that trades and handicrafts cannot employ all the hands without agriculture, larger sums must be paid to foreigners for absolute necessities, than is gained from them by superfluities, by which means a state may come to be quite exhausted.

I have heard some of the most sensible gentlemen in this country complain, that agriculture is not studied here as a science, nor brought to any certain rules and maxims. Most of the farmers blindly follow the examples of others, and abide by old customs, which are often pernicious; or, at best, it is not till after repeated damages and losses, that any of them are brought to learn a true method of farming, to know what is to be done, and what avoided.

The

The generality of the noblesse in this country hold their lands in their own hands, and are what we call in England gentlemen-farmers. Hence it often happens that an estate falls to one who has not the least acquaintance with country affairs, and who scarce was ever out of his parish. Would a father who has lands to leave to his son, send him abroad under proper care, where the subjects are encouraged to rural improvements by prizes and rewards, and societies meet to improve this so necessary science; where the causes and reasons of every thing are carefully examined, and practical maxims deduced from them, with instructions for carrying them into the most advantageous execution; would not such a one, on his taking possession of an estate, abolish many wrong customs, make new improvements, and thus considerably enlarge his income?

There is scarce a farmer or a landholder in this country who does not conceit himself a perfect master of agriculture, and the whole compass of farming. He pronounces decisively on every thing: but, on examination, all his skill and understanding consists only in custom and old usages, and he turns the deaf ear to every thing that is new, and not immediately clear to his uncultivated understanding. If any alterations are talked of, he pleads impossibility, custom, and the nature of the

the foil, and foretels what sad consequences will follow such innovation.

This pertinacious adherence to old customs is the principal cause of the slow progress of agriculture throughout this country: yet the gentlemen of Mecklenburg cannot be ignorant of the great improvements other nations have made in farming within this half century, how many new practices they have introduced, and from how many old ones they have departed. Indeed the last twenty years are said to have brought about some very happy alterations in Mecklenburg; they have begun to imitate some of the good regulations of their neighbours, and farming now makes a quite different appearance. But they are greatly mistaken, who imagine that matters are already brought to the highest degree of perfection. Very far from it. Not to mention the great number of those who, either from ignorance or remissness, abide by the old rules of the peasants, they who aim at improvement of rural œconomy, have still many things to imitate, for giving a greater fecundity to the fields, meadows, and pastures; for making swampy places, fens, hills, and mountains, arable; for encreasing woods by new plantations; and likewise for drawing greater advantages than formerly from fisheries and other regalia.

In several parts of Germany they have learned to plant tobacco, from French and Palatine

refugees, which has turned to very considerable account. There are some in this country who have likewise embarked in the same undertaking, and found that by planting tobacco, and the frequent grubbing up the ground requisite in that operation, the soil is meliorated and cleared of weeds. Several farmers have likewise foreign vegetables, as broccoli, truffles, lucern, and clover. But I wonder that such good examples are not more followed.

While the people of this country have still so many uncultivated tracts, and unfruitful hills, they should not complain as they do that arable land and farms are wanting: so long as their cattle are without fodder in winter, and yet several parts of the country over-run with swamps and fens, which affect the fruitfulness and salubrity of the land, they cannot with any grace call themselves good husbandmen. When no place of any consequence shall lie uncultivated and useless, whether in fields, meadows, or woods, then, and not till then, one may conclude, that the country is sufficiently populous, and has great numbers of industrious and knowing farmers.

Improvements in agriculture are infinite, and every day produces some; but they require diligence and experience, intelligent and sagacious husbandmen. When a farmer lays aside his prejudices, and attends to right and beneficial measures,

measures, and this is accompanied with some disposition to promote the general good, he will be continually improving in rural economy.

A gentleman of this country was mentioning to me the other day a plan, which he proposes laying before the duke, for the speedier improvement in several branches of husbandry.

Every farmer or landholder should keep a book, for setting down exactly when, and in what manner, he prepared his ground, and sowed and reaped; what throve, and what did not; what he omitted; to what any miscarriage may be attributed; what advantageous method he has made use of; what experiments he has tried; how they answered, and so forth. In a word, all, to the most minute proceedings, with their result of them, must be set down in this book.

Every half year, six, eight, or ten nearest neighbours should meet, produce their books, compare them freely, and make their observations. Every one, for his farther remembrance and reflection, must take such observations as are practicable down in writing, and make experiments on them; of what has thriven he must give an account to his neighbours, and continue that process, laying aside such practices as have failed. The keeping such a book would be but little trouble, rather an entertainment; and a most useful work to posterity.

The

The principal cause of the slow improvements in agriculture throughout this country, is the change of rural œconomy, which has thrown the farms into fewer hands; a pernicious practice like that of engrossing them, in England. I have had frequent conversations on this subject with some of the most experienced in these matters, by which means I am enabled to trace the affair to its source, and to shew you the difference between the ancient and present state of farming in the duchy of Mecklenburg.

Within something above a century this country has sustained such alterations as totally subverted the ancient œconomy. The Thirty Years War, in which the dukes of Mecklenburg were unhappily involved, was attended with deplorable ravages, and general Gallas made it his particular business to desolate the circle of Stargard, in which Strelitz is situated. There are still many monuments of his inhumanity, by which that commander appears to have been a severe scourge to this country. War brought on the pestilence, which, especially in the year 1636, &c. swept away almost the whole remainder of its inhabitants. From the year 1650, the duchy of Mecklenburg began to recover itself a little; but that it has not yet recovered its former affluence and populousness, the following reasons, I apprehend, will demonstrate.

I. The

1. The duchy of Mecklenburg had formerly more villages than at present. We are still acquainted with the names of villages now no longer existing; and on the heaths and in woods one meets with the ruins of houses, and even of churches. Many woods now are called *Hagen*, which, in the old Teutonic signified a village. Now that woods could be so called, is not well to be supposed, had they not borrowed this appellation from the village, the site of which they at present occupy. That *Hagen* signifies a village, is very plain, from its composition with other names; as Hinricks-hagen, Dietricks-hagen, Lutkenhagen, &c. Those villages, the names of which terminate in *Hagen*, belong to the middle ages, and were founded by Christian inhabitants; as those ending in *Itz* and *Ow*, were built in the most ancient times of idolatry. No new villages are to be found in Mecklenburg, unless we will give that name to a few farms here and there; and these were rather built for cattle than for men.

2. This duchy had more inhabitants formerly than at present. This indeed seems a direct inference from the former, as the more villages, very probably the more inhabitants; but I will produce to you a proof of another kind. I have seen several old registers, which demonstrate the point. I shall only mention two instances. In a village,

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where,

where, since the Thirty Years war, there have been only five peasants and a farm-house, there were formerly fifteen, besides the farm-house. It is true, these were only half farmers, called *Cossats* : but these half farmers I am told had as many domestics and cattle as a whole farmer of the present times. And this is certain from all accounts, that each of the fifteen peasants had scarce half as much ground as each of the five present. In another village there are at this time eight peasants; but from a tax register it appears, that antiently every peasant of the village was to deliver eighteen bushels of grain; the total amounts to three hundred and sixty; consequently the village, where at present only eight peasants can get a living, had at that time twenty.

In travelling through Mecklenburg, one sees without the present limits of most of the villages, fruit-trees, heaps of stones, and other monuments, which plainly shew that the villages were formerly much larger. Were the present inhabitants of the circle of Stargard to be numbered, there is reason to believe that they would be found lessened in proportion. And contrary to all expectation it has appeared, on a regular survey, that the most fruitful parts of Mecklenburg have the fewest inhabitants, and that the worst are the best peopled.

3. There

3. There was formerly more tillage and graziery than at present. Few districts are so generally cultivated as once was the universal practice. In most we meet with whole tracts over-run with woods, where the marks of the furrows are still remaining; a plain proof that these woods occupy the place of what formerly was arable land. There are even heaths where these traces of the plough are to be seen. Now, if a greater number of people lived in a district, it would require that it should be every where cultivated to the utmost. And this extension of tillage would likewise require a greater number of cattle. And of course, more cattle must have been kept in that district. How all these could subsist in a spot of land, which at present scarce maintains a much smaller number, I shall explain to you hereafter.

4. From the inquiries I have made, it appears that domestic œconomy was in those times quite different from what we now see it; and this I shall shew in several particulars. The villages and the lands belonging to them had their proprietors in those days as at present; but the difference between the ancient and the modern œconomy was very great. Most of the villages were divided among several proprietors. In proof of this I shall only mention the village of Ziercke, on the other side of the lake of Strelitz, which, though small and inconsidera-

ble, is said to have had several noble proprietors, of whom each had one or two mansion-houses. The like is applicable to most villages. The villages were divided according to the number of families : father, brother, children, and sons-in-law, lived with one another, and every one had his property. Whether this was an advantage or a detriment to the noble families, I shall not take upon me to decide ; but certainly, to all the inhabitants of a village taken aggregately, it must have been highly beneficial. If a village was divided among several proprietors, every one stood up for his right, and consequently the whole was regularly divided ; both the arable and the pasture land, according to the nearest equality in goodness. Every one had likewise his certain tract of woodland ; and there are many places, where they still retain the discriminative names ; though these names are of no farther use than to denote the former state and constitution of Mecklenburg. There were also commons, open to the cattle of the whole district ; the exclusion now so frequent, was not then known.

The lower class of inhabitants or peasants followed this regulation. On the marriage of children, the father did not turn them out of doors, nor were they taken from him for the service of his lord ; but he either kept them in the house, or built a cottage for their accommodation. Here he settled his children, and

and they were occasionally to assist him in his labour. The villains performed their services to their lord weekly; but these services were nothing so burthensome as at present. It is scarce fifty years ago, since the boors in Mecklenburg served only five days in the week, having the sixth free to themselves. Neither did they employ in this service such a number of cattle and men as at present. But at that time there were laws for regulating the labour and services of the villains, and laws duly observed. Now if the wealth of a country, which has no foreign maritime commerce, consists in the number of its inhabitants, agriculture, and grazing; Mecklenburg must be allowed to have been a very opulent country before the Thirty Years War. The villages indeed did not produce one-fourth of their present rents; but they maintained more men and cattle; and consequently the products of the lands, being distributed into more hands, exceeded those of our times.

5. As to the question, how a greater number of men could subsist in Mecklenburg, you must consider, that the manner of living in former times is to be distinguished from the present; and on this occasion I shall mention a passage which I had from an eminent lawyer in this country. Towards the end of the sixteenth century a

gentleman, whose family is now extinct, lived with his wife, but no children, at his village, and owed 6000 florins, or 3000 rix-dollars. In the year 1575, he formally made the estate over to his creditors, for 12000 florins or 6000 rix-dollars, with a proviso, that, if after deducting the capital which had been lent, they would allow him five per cent per annum for the remaining 3000 rix-dollars, the estate should be theirs by purchase, as he could live on the interest. The inference I draw from this is, that 200 years ago, a gentleman with 150 rix-dollars a year, could subsist genteely, according to the then mode of living. Now, if in those times so small a sum could suffice for a gentleman, it may easily be reckoned how little a peasant or a meaner person required for his subsistence; and thus you see how at that time, a much greater number of people could subsist in Mecklenburg than at present. No coach and horses were then known, no livery servants, no waiting-maids, no Burgundy and Champagne, no French and Brussels lace, no *Faro*, and *Trisett*. A leash of grey-hounds was the only equipage, and these fed on bread from the owner's ground, and at the same time partly supplied his kitchen.

But for a farther elucidation of this point, I shall give you from good authority an account of their former manner of living, especially that
which

which obtained in all its simplicity among the country people. The duchy of Mecklenburg indisputably abounds in provisions: it is the same soil as it was two hundred years ago. What a great quantity of corn, butter, cattle, especially hogs and sheep, are every year exported, which if consumed at home, would suffice for some thousands! More hands were formerly employed in agriculture; and graziery, which, at present is in the hands of few, was then general, every family, more or less, keeping cattle. The many hundreds of pigs, for instance, which now die every year for want of necessary care, by reason of the multitude of them, were the peculiar department of the farmer's industrious wife; so that few or none were lost: consequently, there was annually a greater increase of provisions.

Every inhabitant had his parcel of land, on which he lived; and besides tillage the generality of cottagers could keep a cow, a hog, a couple of geese, and even a sheep, which were his support. The peasant lived by the ground which he tilled; he sowed and reaped, and his crop was his subsistence. The principal article of his household was his being able to keep a cow, as will appear from this comparison. Suppose two peasants with equal families; one keeps a cow, the other has none: now, on observation how much corn each brings to the

mill, the latter will be found to use as much again as the former. Eat he must; but what? While the former has milk, cheese, &c. the latter can only take some meal, stir it about in water, boil it up, and there's his fare. The former wants no fire to dress his food; whereas the latter cannot by any means do without it. This sufficiently proves that the breeding of cattle is what a peasant can subsist on both best and cheapest. A poor peasant in this country could formerly as well support himself with milk, as the boor in Pomerania does to this day, having always in his cottage a large vessel, into which is poured a quantity of milk, from whence the family occasionally supply themselves. The Mecklenburgher would unquestionably embrace the like resource, had he, as formerly, a cow to come home every evening with full dugs.

The ancient inhabitants used for their cloathing wool and flax, the earth with his own industry supplying him with both. He who had no ground for sowing flax, agreed with a neighbour to sow linseed for him on his ground, and by way of return he was to help him in his work. Thus the inhabitants procuring flax by their own labour, stood in no need of money for purchasing it. The other article was wool. Most peasants took care to have one or two sheep; and he who had none used to earn wool, particularly by sheep-shearing;

shearing; thus the inhabitants were furnished with cloathing. The old Mecklenburg dress still subsists in some places, and especially along the Baltic. It is but lately that the lower class are come to wear cloth. The wool was spun, and coloured with hrebs, brown, blue, yellow, green, and even dark red, according to every one's fancy. In the weaving of flax or linen, wool was partly shot in instead of thread, which made *worp* the old original wear of the Mecklenburghers. The only pecuniary expence was paying the weaver; all the rest the peasant provided by his own industry: the tailor's place was supplied by the good mother of the family. Another article of expence, indeed, was now and then a pair of shoes; but in such cheap times, and such a plenty of leather, these could have cost but little.

Farther, the duchy of Mecklenburg formerly enjoyed a beneficial trade, which of late, is reduced only to sending corn out of the country, bringing in money in return, and immediately sending it out again, for things they might very well do without. A hundred rix-dollars brought into the country for corn, and a hundred rix-dollars sent out of it for wine, is an even balance, without the least advantage to the state. Formerly, the money remained in the country; what the peasant wanted he bought of the artificer, who again was his customer; and this produced a happy
circulation.

circulation. They were at little cost even about their furniture and utensils, most of them being the work of their own hands. A pot and kettle they bought; but the other necessaries employed their winter evenings. A board with four legs served for a table and bench; and a board fastened in the side of the room supplied the place of a cupboard. Chairs were made of plaited chips; a square piece of wood was a plate; the father of the family cut spoons, made the wooden parts of the ploughs and carriages, and brought up the young ones to the like skilful industry: in making nets all hands were employed; and thus all lived in comfort and plenty.

I have already observed to you that there was but little wood in Mecklenburg: but in those times much less wood served than at present. The houses were quite different from those now in use. A man of substance had but two small rooms, and an inferior enjoyed himself in one. Then turf was dug, so that there was no want of fuel. In a word, those times had advantages which the present circumstances do not afford: and upon the best calculations that I have heard, the natural riches of this country were greater at that time, when an estate was valued only at 6000 rix-dollars, which now would fetch 40,000.

Thus

Thus have I given you a general sketch of domestic œconomy, as it stood about two centuries ago; I shall now add a few observations for the better comparing an article of such importance with the present. From the foregoing review you will find that this country was well peopled; all those villages and farm-houses, which now lie in ruins, swarmed with peasants. The calamities of the times, by destroying the habitations have scattered the people; and little care has been taken to rebuild the villages, and recruit them with inhabitants. The erection of glass manufactures has indeed cleared many arable tracts, which had been over run with shrubbery, till in time the glass-houses were turned into farms. But these farms are in the hands of one single proprietor, and do not contribute to the support of such a number of men as might live in those places. Thus population has not been increased by that change; only more corn has been produced for one single owner. Were a scheme to take place for all the villages to be filled with inhabitants, as formerly, numbers would be found greatly wanting; and to supply the deficiency with foreign emigrants, has its difficulties and inconveniences. Were public notice given that a Saxon or Pomeranian farmer or husbandman should have a recompence fully adequate to his work, it would soon appear how little foreigners are disposed

disposed to remove hither and till the land. Artificers indeed settle in some of the towns, and to their advantage in many respects. The great scarcity of hands in this country never is more manifest, than when men are wanted for any particular business. Then it is visible, that there is scarce a sufficiency for performing the common necessary works; and even these must exert their whole strength, and often wear themselves out before their time.

Many are the causes of this want of men. A great part of the youth quit their country, and go into foreign service; and the country labouring-man is reduced to such necessity and indigence, that it is easy to foresee the number will lessen sooner than encrease. Whilst a man and a maid remain single, they are brisk, active, healthy, and strong; and their appearance praises their keeper. But before they have well lived a year together in marriage, their bloom is faded, and their strength gone. Toil and penury, laborious days, nights taken up with the business of the house, bringing of wood, working in their bit of a garden, low wages, and even from these frequently some oppressive defalcations; do such things afford any prospect of an encrease in the human species? Children come on. The mother must attend and work at the lord's mansion-house, the child is left under the care of another not much bigger than itself, and

and instead of food, spends itself in crying till sleep relieves it. At length it gets food, coarse four bread, which then it devours to excess. Such nurture creates various distempers, and the greater part of the poor creatures perish before they are capable of any service. The adults are weak, and being unable to labour, have nothing to live on, and thus are destitute of succour and remedies. How is it possible that under such circumstances the people should encrease; much less reach the numerous population of former times?

Some are apt to say, that agriculture has been brought in this country to the summit of perfection; whereas the more sensible part acknowledge that the country is nothing near tilled to that extent and advantage as formerly. There are, however, who pretend, that the deficiency is made up by the present manner of cultivation. It is not long since it has grown into a custom, that a proprietor having two villages near one another, turns one into a farm, and makes the other a village for his peasants to live in; or, in other words, of two inhabited villages, dispeoples one; and at present they grow very fond of imitating the Holstein œconomy, in thus building villages in couples. I do not deny that a proprietor is considerably advantaged by this new invention of avidity; yet not to mention his villains being extremely enfeebled by their laborious field-services, it is a question whether

ther his profits would suffer any considerable diminution, were both villages properly inhabited.

Let us suppose a proprietor with a farm requiring eight lasts of seed; the management of it cannot be well conducted without a village of ten peasants; and these will not fully answer all the agrestic services; he must farther have three teams of horses, and men to take care of his cattle. Now let the proprietor compute the joint produce of both villages, and deducting the several expenditures, divide the farm among sixteen peasants, in such a proportion that each shall use half a last of corn for seed, and be allowed to pay a pecuniary duty instead of field service; it is a problem yet undetermined, whether, under such a distribution, his estate does not bring him in as much, as under the former circumstances, when he engrossed the whole produce of the farm?. The latter method, at least, is the best for encreasing the number of inhabitants. This I think is very clear. Let us compare a village where the peasants pay instead of serving, and are certain that they and theirs shall remain at home; let us compare it, I say, with a village that has a farm, where the peasants must perform the several services. It is obvious that the former will have a great many more inhabitants than the latter. For instance: the village of Sandhagen, not far from Friedland, and that of Ziercke,

ercke, near this town of New Strelitz, are in so ungrateful a soil, and so inconveniently situated, that there is scarce a worse in all Mecklenburg; yet as the peasants redeem their services by money, both are much better peopled than other villages more happily situated, but under different circumstances.

Agriculture itself would be a considerable gainer by the last method; for every one knows that we are more careful and diligent when working for ourselves, than when slaving for others. The peasant, whilst employed in his lord's service, is no more than a machine, and the steward or proprietor is the mobile of it: he never consults reason, or the suggestions of experience: and frequently it is more than he dare do, as possibly he might then be found wiser than his overseer. He must toil till the mansion-house bell rings, which often is prolonged beyond the due time, and this without any intervals for rest. The natural consequence must be, that this peasant goes heavily and negligently about his work; whereas he who pays a pecuniary acknowledgement instead of his service, looks on the land as his property, and the fruits of his labour are his own. This animates him to greater industry and circumspection in all his proceedings, in manuring, sowing, and every part of husbandry. Such were the means by which this country was enabled to afford a plentiful subsistence to so many thousands

lands more than at present. The lands were divided among the farmers, who, besides the supplies to their landlords, maintained themselves and their children, together with whole families of domestics and servants. And, for the preservation of good order and justice, country courts were erected, with a mansion-house and a parcel of land for the judge, who was thus always at hand, and whose interest it likewise was to put an immediate stop to all irregularities, and consult the prosperity of the district.

Graziery, in ancient times, seems to have laboured nearly under the same difficulties as at present; and yet it certainly was then in a much more flourishing state. This branch of husbandry is of greater advantage to a country than the richest mine works. Of these only a part of the inhabitants can partake, but graziery benefits the whole, from the highest to the lowest.

The Mecklenburg horses are, in themselves, strong and vigorous; and if not quite so large as those of Holstein, so are they not by far so weakly, and feed on cheaper fodder. Yet, generally speaking, the breeding of horses is very much neglected in Mecklenburg. The farmers make the greater part of those who keep horses; yet are they most wretchedly careless, or at least mistaken in the means of having good cattle; though a bad beast requires as much fodder as the best. He turns his foals

on

on the common, for two years, amidst stone-horses and mares; and in the third year his foal yields him another; and by this time both are good for nothing. The young stone-horse likewise spoils itself amidst the great number of mares; whereas, were the peasants allowed a separate close for young stone-horses, and a stallion common to the district, these mischiefs would be prevented, and within the small space of five or six years, the breed of horses be considerably improved.

It is pretty much the like case with the horned cattle. The first year, a calf intended to be brought up is kept at home, and the second year it is turned on the common; where, besides other incidental damages, a cow-calf usually calves in the third year, which impairs both its growth and strength, and the future breed suffers from these defects in the dam. Whereas, were a district of several villages allowed a close, where the young cattle might feed by themselves another year, graziery would be greatly advantaged.

The breeding of sheep, that source of the woollen trade, the advantages of which are so many, is left to the good pleasure of the shepherds; and these, if not belied, make advantages not easily detected. It is said to be their singular good fortune, that their sheep have both the best lambs and the best

wool. Whether this be true, I know not; but I am told, that whether the ram has good or bad wool, is made a matter of indifference. An experiment has been tried in several countries of procuring foreign rams of a finer wool; and it has been found to answer very well in the lambs of such a breed. I question whether a person who proposed imitating this in Mecklenburg, would not expose himself to ridicule and censure. But if procuring foreign stallions for studs has been found of such advantage, why not likewise try the experiment of foreign rams, when the cases are quite similar?

Nothing is more detrimental to sheep-breeding than the continual roving of the shepherds; who, Tartar like, generally shift their walks every year, totally unacquainted with the nature of the several soils. Each has its particular quality; meadows, marshes, swampy, dry parts, under some circumstances are noxious to the sheep, and at other times agree with them: each has a particular herbage; some wholesome, others pernicious. This in my opinion is the real cause of so great a mortality among the sheep; at least I have been informed of an instance, which very much confirms me in this opinion.

The regular and exact division of arable land among the joint inhabitants of a place, is at present become so obsolete, that scarce any vestige

vestige of that beneficial equity is remaining : except that some particulars relating to the glebe of a few parishes and the priest's portion shew how the ancient custom stood: It was justly thought, that the inhabitants of a district ought to have a certain part of the land for their use. These inhabitants made four classes, the nobility, the farmers, the boors, and the clergy. The country was divided into smaller parts for the conveniency of tillage, and that which required twelve bushels for sowing, was called a *buse* or *mansus* †. Of these, the *ritter* or gentleman had a part granted him by the duke, and they were known by the name of *ritterbuses*, being in lesser or greater number according to the extent of the different districts; some of which comprehended ten, twelve, or sixteen *ritterbuses*; and they were all to be tilled by the farmer.

It was but reasonable that the farmer's industry and labour should procure him a competent subsistence; on this account four such *buses* were allowed to one farm, which thus became taxable; *habet quatuor mansos* occurs

† The method of measuring out land by the *mansus* or *buse* was established in this country by the Saxons, who are said to have borrowed it from the Hollanders. The Dutch *mansus*, according to Lambecius, contained in length seven hundred and twenty, in breadth thirty *regales virgæ*.

in many antient diplomas. In those places where the landlord received his whole rent in grain, nine bushels were paid for each *buse*, and thirty-six bushels for every farm. Such a farm consisting of four small *buses*, is now called a *bauer buse*, and must pay its proportion or contingent to the public contribution. The *hinds*, or *adscripti glebæ*, had likewise their portion: the *ritter* or gentleman, on giving them cottages or dwellings, granted them such a portion of ground in the neighbourhood, as required two bushels of seed for annual use. The priest's portion was only equal to that of the farmer, viz. four small *buses*; and as in such a division of the country there remained many nooks and spots, these were consecrated to ecclesiastic uses. The woods were also divided in the same manner, and even the open fish-ponds in the country had their appointed proprietors.

Under such a division of the land, which, in most places, is sunk into total disuse and even oblivion, a village could maintain a much greater number of men than at present. What was requisite for the support of a *ritter* or gentleman, I have already mentioned; the farmer maintained himself by the industrious improvement of his small pittance; and as for the hinds, or *adscripti glebæ*, these were of two sorts. Some had employment with dwellings under the lord, and others lived with the farmers.

mers. The latter built themselves small habitations near or upon their lands. While the parents were able to work, such of their children as were married lived in those houses; but if the parents gave up the land to their children, they retired to those houses, as hereditary recesses for decrepitude; and where, if necessary, their issue maintained them. On the father of family's portioning his daughter, the principal part was a cow and fodder for the first year; the young couple had likewise the first harvest. They bred a hog and a few geese, which fed on the common; so that when autumn came on, the poor fellow had something to kill, and salt for his winter store. The other boors lived on their employs, pretty much in the same manner, and consequently were not without a competent subsistence.

I know several gentlemen who have been at the trouble of visiting the houses of the poorer sort of people throughout the country, and observing their manner of living, their food, and apparel; and they all affirm that the present times are greatly altered for the worse; and what makes the case still harder, no order of men is in reality a gainer by the alteration; but as for the peasantry, their condition is become much more grievous. This, I think, might be remedied, by making it easier for the poor to keep cattle, as one great means of their domestic subsistence.

You see I have been very ingenuous, if not too minute, my dear friend, in giving you my remarks on the present state of agriculture in the duchy of Mecklenburg. It is true, these remarks are not particular to this province, but may be applied to most parts of Germany, where the miserable condition of the peasants, who are held in the most abject villenage, prevents them from making the same improvements in tillage, as we observe in those countries where the poor enjoy in common with the rest of mankind, the blessings of liberty. But I would not have you infer from hence, that no improvements have been made here in cultivation, and in the art of meliorating the soil. On the contrary, there have been many; and baron Dewitz, in particular, ever since he has been in the administration, has given the greatest encouragement to such schemes as any way tend to improve the several branches of rural œconomy.

But in no one article has he been more assiduous than in endeavouring to drain the lakes and marshes, with which this part of Mecklenburg abounds. There are actually a great number of men employed in draining a part of the lake of Strelitz, and in cutting out a navigable canal, by which he intends to open a communication with the Elbe. This is a noble undertaking, and to his praise it must be said, that he has steadily persevered in it, notwithstanding the opposition of the gentlemen

in the several departments of government, who all objected to it, as too expensive, impracticable, and useless. They said he came from England, with his head full of schemes, which would never do in this country. But now they begin to open their eyes, and to think that if they had fewer lakes and marshes, it would be more advantageous to the prince, and happier for the subject.

Where the population of a country is not very considerable, lakes and marshes generally remain as they are: but when it increases, and the administration bends its attention to that weighty point, on which the power and prosperity of states may be said in a great measure to depend, nothing more nearly relates to the comfortable dwelling and subsistence of the inhabitants, than to procure a more commodious and fertile surface; and then of course the draining of lakes and marshes is taken in hand. That a country with many lakes and marshes is but thinly inhabited, is a conclusion verified by experience, in all nations where the arts and sciences have made any progress. In France, England, and the populous provinces in Germany, as Saxony, Franconia, the Palatinate, the Duchy of Magdeburg, Bavaria, and Lower Austria, there are few or no lakes or morasses of any extent: whereas in Denmark, Sweden, Poland, Russia, and in those parts of Germany where population runs low, as in

Holstein, Pomerania, &c. they are by much too common. The duchy of Mecklenburg abounds with them; from some high grounds one may see six, seven, and even more. Now, where they are so numerous, it is certainly most beneficial for a state to form as many of them as possible into streams and canals for the improvement of inland navigation, and to drain the remainder. The draining of lakes and morasses not only supports population, but is a real aggrandizement of a state, infinitely preferable to conquests, for it diffuseth blessings and prosperity over a country. Draining employs a great number of hands, and by the acquisition of fertile land the products of the country are multiplied; now these are considerable advantages, which would compensate for the charges of the undertaking, without any other view. But the addition of subjects arising from this increase of land, would soon augment the public revenue.

I have had several conversations with the engineer employed in draining lakes and morasses in this country; he is a very able, communicative man; so that I have had an opportunity of knowing from him in what manner this operation is conducted.

The nature of the lake having been narrowly examined, they proceed to as exact a knowledge of its bottom, whether it be muddy and earthy, or rocky and stoney: in the last case it will
not

not answer the charges of draining; though for an inland lake to have a rocky ground, would be something very extraordinary, if not impossible in the nature of things; for in the space of some hundreds of years, such a quantity of earthy and slimy particles must have subsided, as to cover it with a fat and fruitful soil, to the depth of a yard; and such a depth is sufficient for cultivation.

The depth of the lake, and the possibility of draining it, are considered in every light; the draining a lake of a very great depth being impracticable. An exact survey is likewise taken of the slope of the neighbouring country, for determining which way the water from the lake is to take its course; likewise whether the water can be carried off only by trenches, or whether engines must be procured for raising it out of the greatest depths: and this being done, the depths to be filled up and brought to a level with the other ground. Besides examining into the possibility of the draining, and forming a plan of the method of conducting it, another important article is a just estimate of the expenditures. Both the plan and the estimate pass through the hands of several persons well acquainted with such works, never committing so important a concern to one single man, however famous for his capacity. Farther, the plan and estimate are shewn to proper persons, desiring their
opinions

opinions and exceptions ; and where they seem weighty, the projector is to answer them, and submit his defence to farther objections. After the scheme is approved, the undertaker engages to do it completely at the lowest rate, and at the same time gives security for the due performance of the contract. He then sets about his work in the following manner :

First, he sinks some broad and deep trenches, according to the slope of the country from the lake to the river or brook into which the drain is to be carried: these trenches being finished, and the disposition of them with regard to the slope very carefully examined, the little space left between the trenches and the lake is bored through, which gives an outlet to the water. As the water decreases in the lake, the trenches are carried farther towards the middle, in order to form the main trench, which transverses the lake; and whilst these trenches advance, a dam is made against any irruption of the water; till things are ready for the dam being bored through, to make a farther discharge. This is the general method by which all the water is carried off. But in case of meeting with a very deep bottom in the middle, from which the water cannot be drained by the trenches, without making them of an enormous depth, the water is raised by engines; and of these the best are such as work both by wind and horses. Next to the main trench through the lake, which is generally

nerally a perch in depth and breadth, another of somewhat smaller dimensions is carried round the whole lake ; and about every thousand paces there is a cross drain, all terminating in the main channel.

The draining of marshes is conducted much in the same manner as that of lakes ; but here I have seen the operation performed only on what we call moor or turf grounds : these are most easily drained by carrying trenches through those grounds, when the disposition of the country is such, that the water can be conveyed to some neighbouring stream. The first thing they do, is to carry a ditch to the middle of the moor in a direct line, its depth and breadth adapted to the extent and wetness of the ground, and thus to the supposed quantity which is to be drained off. Every six, eight, or ten perches, as the ground is more or less swampy, cross trenches on both sides are drawn in a direct line, and communicating on both sides with the main trench. But in case of water coming from any neighbouring eminences, they dig a trench round the whole ground as a reservoir ; and this likewise communicates with the main trench. These trenches are made wider at the top than at the bottom, that the bank may be the less liable to give way, and thus spoil the drains. It is likewise customary, for the better security of the work, to set pales or hedges along the banks ;
osier

osier twigs will answer this purpose, setting them cross-wise, and about four or five feet above the water.

If these twigs are topped the first year, so that they may not hold much wind, and thus shake the roots, they will thrive very well and strengthen the bank; and if these osiers are not to stand, they may be hewn down at the end of five or six years, as by that time the roots having struck deep, will afford a good binding to the ground. The earth from these trenches being generally very good, is spread on the grounds that are to be drained; but the sods, turf, and moss clods, if the turf cannot be used for fuel, are turned about or placed in heaps, in order to their quicker putrefaction for manure as above. In case the draining of the water into some natural receptacle be not practicable, at least not under a very great expence, then they have recourse to sinking ponds or reservoirs in some neighbouring bottom; and to these they carry all the trenches.

Those ponds may likewise be of use as a fishery; but if even the sinking such a pond be too chargeable, there still remains an expedient, which is of good effect, and chiefly if the moors are not too wet and marshy. It is the nature of moors in general, that beneath the turf or moss there is a loam which hinders the moisture from penetrating; and this indeed is what makes the marsh, and causes the luxuriant

ant growth of the turf and moss; but this loam or clay is only a stratum, and far from being of an immense depth; under it is, generally, a sand, or some other stoney or loose soil. Here reason readily informs us that a middling morass may be drained by perforating the clay, and thus making way for the moisture to penetrate. In order to this, a pit is dug in the deepest part of the moor, till they come below the obstructing clay, and meet with such a spongy stratum, as, in all appearance, will be sufficient to imbibe the moisture of the marsh above it. Into this pit the ebbing of the morass is conveyed through a trench; and both the trench and the pit are filled up after the first drain with large broad stones, setting them edge-wise, so as to leave interstices for carrying off the water: then such stones are laid over breadth-wise, and these covered with a loose earth, like that on the surface. Where no such stones are to be had, strong piles are rammed down the sides of the trench, and broad boards laid across, and these are covered with earth to a height fit for culture. This is a matter of no great expence, the pit being as near the morass as the water will permit, and the trenches but short. Thus they have a drain unperceived, which leaves the surface of the trenches for the plough; and in middling marshes, especially in such moors as are only wet and damp, this method,

thod, tho' something slow, never fails of taking effect, and many tracts are made serviceable to the farmer or grazier. So much for their method of draining the marshes: I shall now take some notice of the process they follow to improve them.

When a marsh is successfully drained, the nature of the soil is examined; for as there are marshy grounds of a different nature, so are different means required for rendering the newly recovered marshes and moors fit for husbandry. This examination is performed by lixiviation, in order afterwards to evaporate the lixivium, and judge of the nature of the soil from the quality of the remaining salts. Whatever be its nature, methods may be found for meliorating it: even those marshy tracts, which abounding in vitriolic and ferruginous particles are in themselves the most ungrateful, may without great difficulty be rendered useful. I shall, however, take notice only of moors, as the most general kind of marshy and wet soils. Now these always consist of a turf, which is more or less intermixed with earth. The more the turf is mixed with earth, the less serviceable for fuel, but the more easily rendered arable; and though the turf be of the most combustible kind, they are not discouraged, for, by the help of perseverance and industry, this turns out the very best and most fruitful land.

I have been told that the burning of moors used formerly to pass for the best method, but since the late improvements in rural knowledge, it is fallen pretty much into disuse. It requires a great deal of wood or shrubbery, and the moors must be set on fire two or three times or oftener, before the flame spreads so as to take its full effect; and though the ashes may be thought greatly to contribute to the improvement of the ground, how far it really does may be inferred only from wood ashes. Turf-ash, as a chymical analysis of it shews, is not of a quality to contribute much towards fertilizing the ground. This work, in short, is attended with a great deal of labour and trouble; the benefits are by no means answerable; and, at present, they can put their fuel to a better use than lavishing it away to little or no purpose.

Dunging likewise is not looked upon as the right mean for meliorating moors; such grounds in themselves abound in manures. Turf, when putrified by degrees, which is the never-failing consequence of its being left for desiccation, affords plenty of dung. It is something very different that moors require; experience shewing that dung answers the end as little as the sheep-fold. The plain truth is, that dunging such grounds makes them rather worse than better.

Some

Some hold marl to be excellent for improving moorish grounds ; and it must be allowed to be of some use in a mossy soil ; yet even in these, and much less in turf and moor-grounds, it is far from being always the best manure. The chief use of marl seems to be for making a stiff ground loose and spongy ; but this is a melioration of which moor-grounds have no need ; what they require is, that the moisture, which preys on the tender roots of the shrubs, the sedge and moss, and converts them into a black earth, be drawn off ; and for this sand is by some ingenious persons reckoned the best medium.

You may think it strange that sand should contribute to improve moor-grounds ; but we are not yet sufficiently acquainted with its nature. In some circumstances, it is not only dissoluble, but likewise of great use for developing other bodies. Is it not sand which chiefly constitutes the firmness of mortar ? and how could this be, if it was not partly dissolved, and its nature as it were changed by this new impregnation ? Sand has also another remarkable property, sufficiently known to those who are conversant with mineralogy ; namely, marble or lime-stone are not of themselves fusible in fire ; but on adding some sand or quartz, this mixture becomes not only fusible, but even liquifies much sooner than the sand or quartz separately.

In

In order, therefore, to make a moor-ground fit for husbandry, it is covered with sand at least to two inches deep. Then the ground is ploughed to the depth of a quarter of a yard, that the sand may be well mixed with the uppermost earth. After this, it must rest a year, during which time the turf rots, and becomes changed into a good black earth. It is seldom they are at any great charge for bringing sand, there being generally loam or clay under the turf, and under that sand; so that in the very making of the trenches or pits for draining the morasses, there will be little difficulty in getting as much sand as will suffice for meliorating the soil. When the ground, thus thoroughly mixed with the sand, has rested a year, it is ploughed, and sowed with grain; yet only half the proportionate quantity of seed need be used, and the harvest will be found to exceed expectation. These moor-grounds may then either be turned into corn-fields, or into meadows, sowing them with clover and grass seeds; and in both cases they will answer so well, as in a few years to repay with interest all the charges bestowed on their improvement.

You see I have been at some pains to pick up what relates to the improvements of farming in this country; I wish I could send you more particulars of this kind, knowing that to a person of your sense they must afford as

much utility and pleasure as descriptions of courts and palaces. In my travels, I like to see and hear every thing; to view the customs and manners of the rustics, as well as those of the higher class; and to let nothing escape my observation. The amusements of the *grand monde*, which we are so fond of reading, are oftentimes very trifling, and of but little use to the public. The brilliancy of a court-ball or the vanity of a masquerade are not of so much importance to me, as the conversation of a farmer well versed in husbandry, who acquaints me with some new invention, that may tend to the improvement of rural œconomy.

I was in company the other day with a gentleman farmer, who is justly reckoned a very sensible man. Among other topics he fell upon the subject of the leaves of trees, and began to lament, that while fodder for the cattle often fails, and the farmers have not sufficient dung for their grounds, they suffer the leaves to fall and rot on the ground, without thinking of applying them to either of those uses. The wise and gracious Creator, he said, had not appointed the production of leaves only as an ornament to the earth, or as a necessary mean for the growth of those vegetables, since there are other good purposes to which they might be applied, did we but take pains to collect them before they wither.

First, he said, that they may be used as fodder for cattle: but for this use they must be gathered a little before they begin to fall, carefully turned and dried like hay; after which, if secured from the wet and damp, they are easily kept the winter through. This is best done in the neighbourhood of large woods, as the gathering the leaves will not cost much. Of these dried leaves, cows seem to be very fond; and there can be no better and cheaper fodder for preserving the sheep in a hard winter.

In France and the upper parts of Germany which are woody, this use of leaves is common, and of infinite benefit; for the lesser farmers in those parts not having much other or better fodder, owe the very subsistence of their cattle to it. - Birch, oak, elm, and willow leaves are given to the sheep and goats; and beech, ash, and hornbeam, to kine. Vine leaves are peculiarly excellent for cows and sheep, as giving plenty of good milk, and a very agreeable taste to the butter made of it.

It should be a rule with farmers, that nothing be lost that is of any use. Now in the woody parts of Mecklenburg, the ground in autumn is frequently seen covered with leaves, rotting; and if you pass that way only in the ensuing winter, you see the poor sheep and cows creeping about their walks, and half perishing for want of fodder, with which

the leaves of the preceding autumn might have plentifully supplied them.

There are likewise many other uses of leaves; for instance they make excellent litter. The leaves of all kinds of trees indiscriminately serve for this purpose, but especially the leaves of pines, their smell preserving the air sweet and wholesome in the cow-houses. In several parts of the electorate of Brandenburg, only pine-leaves are used for this end; and it is very seldom that any sickness among the cattle is known there.

Another great advantage is dunging of land; the leaves mixed with earth, by reason of their saline parts, make an excellent manure, and still better after serving as litter. He who uses leaf dung may be sure he is not sowing his ground with weeds. Leaves of every kind are good for manuring, but especially the abovementioned of pines, the juices of which increase the strength of the manure. The dung of leaves is in general far better than that of wheat, barley, or rye straw: the leaf having more vegetable juices in it, causes a more uniform and temperate fermentation in the earth; and thus its effects are likewise more lasting.

Leaves are also of a very great use to gardeners for their beds, as a succedaneum to horse-dung or turf; only they must be trodden very close on the bed, and properly moistened. This leaf manure heats gradually; and its heat is more equal and continued than that of
horse-

horfe-dung: there is likewise not so much danger of the tender plants in the bed being burnt or choaked. The operation of leaves and that of turf are pretty much alike.

In some places, particularly in Westphalia, the leaves of hard wood, as oak, &c. are used for smoaking flesh; and how fit it is for this, the excellency of Westphalia hams and sausages is a sufficient proof. Leaves duly dried and prepared may supply the place of straw, flocks or feathers for beds, bolsters, and pillows. Nothing can be cheaper for this purpose, and at the same time nothing more sweet and healthy. But here the leaves must be a little moistened, as this makes them tougher; so that they do not so soon break into dust by frequent shaking. Tho' they are chiefly commodious for such poor as want bedding, yet in Upper Germany even the richest have a leaf sack under their bed instead of straw, as being softer and cleaner than straw, and not causing so much dust in making the bed.

Leaves may be put between bottles of wine in binns instead of saw-dust, and particularly when a cellar is dry. They likewise serve for packing brittle commodities.

Lastly, oak leaves may be used for tanning of leather instead of the bark; for the juices of the oak leaf having nearly the like properties as those found in oak bark, their effects on the skins are the same. The trial is easily made: only put some oak leaves in-

to water for a little time, and the water will strongly imbibe their qualities, contracting a dark colour and a remarkable astringency. This is an important use, yet hitherto totally omitted in Mecklenburg. Indeed the only use made of leaves is, that the masters of the glass-houses rake them together and burn them to an ash, for making green glass.

These observations on the use of leaves struck me very much; and I must own I was no less pleased with what the same gentleman communicated to me another time concerning the increase of wood for fuel.

It is an essential part of good management, said he to me, that the wood growing on an estate be kept in a due proportion with the families living on it. To grub up woods in order to make more room for corn, is no less detrimental than to plant more wood than the estate requires; and he who clears the best spots, especially sandy hills, in order to plough them up, hurts his land, the sand being thereby blown or washed into the fruitful vallies. This subject, he added, was too extensive to be discussed at once; so that he should at present confine himself to fuel wood.

An alder and a birch requires at most twenty-five years before it becomes fit for cutting. If older, the stem never thrives well afterwards; and if left till it is very old and large, on the cutting of the tree, the root absolutely dies. From
whence

whence he would recommend these rules: 1. Not to let fuel wood be above twenty-five years old, as a longer delay would be attended with damage. 2. If, on a computation, it appears that there is a sufficiency of wood on the estate for twenty-five years, the wood is then in a proportionate quantity. If, besides, there are any heaths from which wind-falls, brush-wood, or cuttings of timber or additional wood of any kind may be procured, so as to furnish annually one-fourth part of the fuel, there is then a sufficiency of wood, when the computation only reaches to eighteen years. 3. If there remain more thickets, these may be very profitably assarted and turned into pastures, which will benefit graziery, and consequently agriculture. If fuel wood can be increased without enlarging the ground on which it is to grow, this will be a very considerable improvement.

The properest way for increasing wood is to divide the whole ground into certain portions called *cavels**, and then hew all the fuel wood clean off. Experience shews, that if the wood be not much above twenty years standing, for one tree that is cut three will shoot up; consequently, the cutting produces such an increase, that a *cavel* which the first time yielded only a load of wood when cleared,

* The division is made into twenty parts, each of which is called *cavel* or *cabil*.

yields two or three loads. To promote this increase, birches are left standing for seed; and the seed dropping, young trees shoot up in places where none grew before. The ground which birches delight in, is indeed very mossy; and this may obstruct the growth of the seeds: but the Creator has provided even for this; birch-seed being so extremely small as easily to fall through the moss on the earth, into which it strikes its root. It may likewise be assisted by digging the ground, or even ploughing it; but if this be thought too much trouble, it is only driving hogs about spring or autumn into the *cavels* that are cleared. Thus by grubbing up the ground, and particularly the moss, the seed meets with a loose earth, which greatly forwards its taking root. Likewise, in harvest, when the swine have grubbed up the ground, it will be proper to procure birch-seeds and strew them here. If this be done the first year after the clearing, the birches produced by those seeds will be seen to thrive surprisingly, even in places where none have grown before.

The greatest inconveniency of *cavels* is the loss of much pasture-ground, as a *cavel* must not be touched, at least, for three years; otherwise, instead of trees there will be only dwarfs. Hence it is of great importance how the *cavels* are laid out in places where the pasture is scanty,

scanty, that the wood may be increased, and yet nothing lost of the ground.

Certain experience teaches, that in all places, trees when cut at the height of four feet from the ground shoot again, firs alone excepted. A beech or alder, a yok-elm, an aspin and a crab, cut at the height of four feet, shoot out three or four strong twigs, which in the space of some years become as sturdy trees, as if they had grown out of the earth at the bottom of the stem; so that all one loses by this manner of clearing the *cavels*, is only, that the seed yields fewer new trees: but, on the other hand, there is a yearly saving of the fourth part, which otherwise would be lost; and a farmer must know that the balance herein is greatly in his favour. In clearing the *cavels* be it observed, 1. That the first trees intended to be cut be not very old, else the stems die. 2. That the cutting be in due time, before the sap begins to rise plentifully, else the tree seeds, and especially the birch. 3. That the cutting be from beneath, or upwards, that there may be no fissure or chasm in the stem for the rain-water to settle in, and thus prey on the stem. 4. That on a stem being cut for the second time, the new twigs be lopped off so, that the new buds expected may not shoot out from the old stem, but from the ends of the twigs. Thus the fuel-wood may be increased, without losing any thing of the pasture-ground,
and,

and, at the same time, a fence is provided for the cattle against the severity of the winter.

Among the articles of rural œconomy which merit the attention of the farmer and country-gentleman, I must rank the cultivation of bees; an article, however, greatly neglected in most parts of the duchy of Mecklenburg. This is the more inexcusable, as the rich provision of those materials which compose wax and honey, may unquestionably be reckoned among the innumerable benefits which the Creator has bestowed on the inhabitants of this country. Their fields, their woods, heaths, meadows, and gardens, never fail in their respective seasons of yielding a superabundance of melleous farina and juices on blossoms, flowers, and plants; and thus as it were, call them to an industrious cultivation of wax and honey. But these advantages are greatly neglected: their sheep, indeed, they take care to shear, but more to the benefit of other countries than their own; whereas they suffer the ingredients for wax and honey, with which this country abounds, to run intirely to waste: a conduct the more absurd, as they send at the same time no small sums out of the country for honey, and still greater for wax. They would think a person highly culpable in neglecting to procure labourers for getting in the several crops from the field, the meadow, and the orchard, and in suffering such valuable gifts

gifts of the divine goodness to perish; yet they can neglect their crops of wax and honey, which, if not of absolute necessity, are conducive to health, and make a part of the conveniences of life. There are but few farms in Mecklenburg that might not bring in much more than a hundred rix-dollars a year in wax and honey; but most parts offer much larger advantage to the cultivation here recommended.

Some say they have tried all manner of ways to keep bees, but to no purpose; the country being little fit for this branch of rural œconomy. But the following facts plainly refute this objection.

Carwitz, on the confines of the marquisate of Brandenburg, is a country which, by reason of its sandiness, but more especially by the many large waters, seems to give as little encouragement for bees as any part of Mecklenburg; and they who first set about breeding these industrious insects, indeed lost their labour as is frequently the case in the first undertakings: yet this prejudice at present no longer subsists; the Rev. Mr. Stoy, having for some years past shewn that this cultivation, though in a disfavoured country, turns to very good account, if rightly managed.

The Reverend Mr. Colberg, a person eminent both for parts and piety, is likewise known to have procured a very considerable

able quantity of wax and honey for sale, besides his home consumption, which was not small : yet this worthy person, who spoke from long experience, does not deny but very considerable improvements might be made in this article. These and other such instances are a manifest proof, that the duchy of Mecklenburg might, under a right management, be annually enriched with a much larger crop of wax and honey. At present, the materials or ingredients of those commodities, to the amount of some thousands of rix-dollars, are every year lost, and in a literal sense trodden under foot, for want of keeping a sufficient number of bees.

The future prevention of so manifest a detriment to the country, is not the only motive for a greater attention to the breeding of these little animals ; but there is likewise another consideration, which hitherto seems not to have been regarded ; namely, “ that numerous swarms of
“ bees continually licking off the superfluous
“ honey-dew and luscious juices, must be of
“ an advantage not only to graziery, but to
“ horticulture, to blossoms, to flowers, herbage
“ and several kinds of pulse, as beans, pease,
“ vetches, buck-wheat, &c.”

They have a maxim here among the country-people, that “ when the bees thrive, the
“ cattle in the meadows droop and dye; and
“ vice versâ, when the cattle thrive, the bees
“ perish.”

“perish.” Now bees thrive in hot dry weather and warm nights, when the flowers and plants copiously exude the luscious juices, which in such seasons are not washed away by rains. But such a temperature does not agree with the cattle; and therefore careful farmers give them theriacum, or thrust down their throat a bit of bread rubbed all over with salt, or make use of other known preservatives.

I shall not take upon me to charge the honey-juce and the saccharine-dew with being of themselves hurtful to cattle; but this is too certain, that in hot and dry weather, multitudes of visible and invisible insects, some venomous, feed on this luscious dew; and it must be allowed, that to eat not only the flowers and herbage tainted by those insects, but with them innumerable swarms of those animalcules, must be of very bad consequence to the health of the cattle. Now these evils, if not totally prevented, would be considerably abated, when, by the increase of bees, these noxious insects shall be deprived of their aliment.

As to the blossoms, flowers, herbage, grain, &c. the damages done by this vermin, when, nourished by the beforementioned juices, they have attained their full strength, is more manifest.

To prevent this mischief, bees, I am well informed by experienced persons, would be

infinite service. Did the people of this country allow them more of their attention, they would with more humble gratitude observe the divine goodness, in providing a remedy in nature against every thing that can be prejudicial to the human species.

Besides the damage done by insects thus subsisting on the honey-juices to so many trees, flowers, plants, and grains, these juices are in themselves very detrimental to the vegetables. In a continuance of heat and drought, the aqueous parts evaporate from the juice; so that they become viscid or clammy, and adhere like a kind of varnish; the consequences of which to the vegetables, are in some measure as a stoppage of the perspiration in animals. This viscous juice conglutinates the small leaves in the heart of the flowers and other vegetables, stops up the filaments, spiracles, and ducts of the plants; and thus hinders their growth, as not only obstructing the free perspiration of the plants, but excluding from them the fresh air, that balsam so necessary for their thriving. A microscope plainly shews the said juices in hot and dry weather settled on the leaves, flowers, &c. like varnish; and the air being thus excluded, their perspirative power ceases, the blossoms drop off, the flowers, herbs, and scions, hang their heads, droop, and wither.

You

You will ask me, perhaps, what can the licking * of a parcel of little bees do in such a large extent of country? I answer you by two observations. First, experience teaches us that honey-dew for the most part falls on one country more than another, and frequently only on some particular trees and plants; and what is still more remarkable, one side of the tree shall be totally dry, and the other as copiously bedewed. It is but seldom that it covers any large space of ground. But the bees know the sweet parts; they have an admirable scent; and the least breath of wind immediately informs them to what quarter they are to direct their flight. Many instances might be brought of these insects knowing their feeding-place even when above a mile from their dwelling. Before the vetches begin to blossom, bees are seen to swarm about them, eagerly licking the luscious moisture from some brownish spots which are observable under every joint or sprig of the stem; and though such a field of vetches be above a mile from the bees, yet they make their way thither in multitudes; and in still weather their humming proclaims the pleasure they receive from this occupation.

But that these little animals with their licking do more than an airy speculatist may be-

* Bees are found to lick and not suck, as is commonly apprehended.

lieve,

lieve, will be granted, on considering that their numbers and indefatigable diligence make up for what is wanting in their size. Thirty or forty thousand industrious bees in the beginning of June are but a middling nursery ; and only suppose fifty such nurseries in one place, these may perform a great deal ; and that they actually do, is evident. A good nursery generally yields eight, ten, and even fourteen pots of pure honey. I'll set down ten pots, and reckon ten more for the summer consumption of such a nursery, for the feeding their numerous breed till they are able to earn their livelihood, likewise the subsistence of the male drones, who, instead of working with the bees, live upon the labour of the rest, and consume their honey.

The contents of these twenty pots of honey must have sufficed for varnishing an inconceivable number of plants and flowers ; but how much more as the bees of the fifty nurseries have collectively licked a thousand pots ? There are a variety of places in this country where at least a hundred of such nurseries could be secured from the winter. Now, if this honey-juice, which in time becomes tenacious and detrimental, be licked away in the dew season, all the before-mentioned evils are prevented ; and a sufficient number of such nurseries dispersed over the country, would greatly contribute to the thriving of the blossoms

foms, flowers, and even of that main necessary, grain.

If these particulars were universally known, and duly attended to, the people of this country would use every possible means for stocking it with as many swarms of bees as it will bear; more especially as the Mecklenburg honey is not inferior to that of most other countries: the mead made of it, when rightly prepared, and kept to a proper age, besides its exquisite taste and flavour, agrees with those who drink it, better than most foreign wines. The Mecklenburg wax may be bleached as white as any other; and, probably, would yield as good a light as the wax candles which they purchase, at so high a price, from abroad. It might be made into sealing-wax of all colours, for the law offices: and the apothecaries and surgeons, likewise, might supply themselves with wax for their various uses, not only at a cheaper rate, but of a better quality, and without adulteration.

But it is time for me to have done with this subject, lest you should think I am going to turn farmer; though it is a title I should be proud of, for I know of no station of life so happy.

*Hoc erat in votis; modus agri non ita magnus
Hortus ubi, &c.*

I often wished I had a farm;
 A decent dwelling, snug and warm;
 A garden, and a spring as pure
 As crystal, running by my door;
 Besides a little ancient grove,
 Where at my leisure I might rove.
 ——— Oh! when, again,
 Shall I behold the rural plain?
 And when with books of fages deep,
 Sequestered ease, and gentle sleep,
 In sweet oblivion, blisful balm!
 The busy cares of life becalm?

Francis Hor. book 2. Sat. 6.

How often is human life spent in wishes,
 which terminate in nothing! But this I hope
 will not be the case of my wishes for the con-
 tinuance of your prosperity.

I am,

Dear Sir, yours, &c.



L E T T E R X V.

Sirelitz, November 3, 1766.

DEAR SIR,

THE duchy of Mecklenburg is divided into the following districts, viz. the ancient duchy of Mecklenburg, the principalities of Wenden, Schwerin, and Ratzeburg, the county of Schwerin, and the lordships of Rostock and Stargard.

The ancient duchy of Mecklenburg is situated on the Baltic; it is bounded on the land-side by the duchy of Saxe Lawenburg, the county and principality of Schwerin, and the lordship of Rostock. It derives its name from the ancient city of Mecklenburg, now only a village, and contains the following towns and remarkable places; viz. Wismar, Mecklenburg, Gadebusch, Grevesmuhl, New Buckow, Kropelien, Wangern, Neuenburg, Crammon, Groß Eixen, Borzow, Bolenburg, and Daffow.

The principality of Wenden forms the greater part of the dominions of Mecklenburg. Its name is derived from the nation of the Venedi,

or Wendi, who inhabited this country before the Saxon war in the 12th century. The boundaries of this principality are Pomerania, the lordship of Stargard, the marquisate of Brandenburg, the duchy of Lunenburg, the county and principality of Schwerin, and the lordship of Rostock. The principal towns and remarkable places on the east side are Gustrow, Waldenhagen, Tetterow, Grubenhagen, Nienkahlden, Malchin, Ivenack, Stavenhagen, Robel, Pentzlin, Wredenhagen, Wahren, Malchow, Plaue, Goldberg, Krackow, and Dobbertin; on the west side lie Sternberg, Parchim, Lubitz, Nieustadt, Grabow, Eldena, and Domitz.

The principality of Schwerin is bounded by the ancient duchy of Mecklenburg, the principality of Wenden, the county of Schwerin, and the lordship of Rostock. It was formerly a bishopric, founded in 1170 by Henry the Lion, duke of Saxony. By the peace of Westphalia it was erected into a temporal principality, in favour of the dukes of Mecklenburg, together with the bishopric of Ratzeburg, to indemnify those princes for having ceded the city of Wismar to the crown of Sweden. The principal towns are Butzow, Niencloster, Brühl, and Rhenen.

The principality of Ratzeburg is situated between the duchy of Saxe Lawenburg, the county of Schwerin, and the territory of the city

city of Lubeck. It had been formerly a bishopric, founded by the above-mentioned Henry the Lion, in 1154 ; but, by the treaty of Westphalia, was secularized in favour of the house of Mecklenburg. The only remarkable place belonging to it is the town of Ratzeburg.

The county of Schwerin takes its name from the capital of the whole country. It is bounded by the ancient duchy of Mecklenburg, the principality of Wenden, and the duchy of Lunenburg. Besides Schwerin, the capital, it contains the following towns, Criwitz, Redewin, Wittenburg, and Boitzenburg.

The lordship of Rostock is so denominated from the city of that name, situated on the Baltic. Its boundaries are Pomerania, the principalities of Wenden and Schwerin, and the ancient duchy of Mecklenburg. The principal towns in this district are, Rostock, Warnemunde, Schwan, Oldenkahlden, Dargun, Gnoyen, Marlow, and Ribbenitz.

The lordship of Stargard takes its name from the ancient town of Stargard. It is bounded by Pomerania, the marquisate of Brandenburg, and the principality of Wenden. In this district are contained the following towns, Old Strelitz, New Strelitz, New Brandenburg, Stargard, Furstenberg, Waldeck, Friedland, Mirow, and Nimerow.

Such is the division of the duchy of Mecklenburg: I shall not at present give you a description of the respective towns, because, in my tour thro' the country, I have hitherto made, and shall continue to make, it a rule to describe those which are worthy a traveller's notice,

The inhabitants of this country are chiefly of Saxon extraction. Their language is a dialect of Lower Saxony, called Plat Deutsch, which is neither Dutch nor High German, but partakes of both: upon comparing it with Junius's Anglo-Saxon gospels, and other Anglo-Saxon books, it is found to retain more of that ancient tongue, than either the Dutch or High German.

The people are divided into peasants, burghers, clergy, and nobility. The peasants are in a state of villanage, or *adscripti glebæ*, as I have mentioned to you in a former letter. The burghers are possessed of certain privileges, by means of which they are united with the nobility, and depend immediately on the sovereign. The clergy have also their particular immunities, and are governed by six bishops or superintendants, namely, those of Schwerin, Gustrow, Parchim, Strelitz, and two for Rostock. At this last city is held a consistory or spiritual court, formed by the twelve ministers of the town, in conjunction with the superintendant. The nobility are a very respectable body, possessed of great privileges, which,

which, after many long contests with the dukes, have been at length settled definitively in 1755.

The inhabitants of Mecklenburg are almost all protestants of the confession of Augsberg, which was early received throughout this duchy. They are very zealous in their religion, and remarkably watchful against any innovation in the established worship. Yet the Roman Catholics have a chapel at Schwerin, and the Calvinists a meeting house at Butzow, the only places in this country where the public exercise of any other than the Lutheran religion is tolerated.

The customs and manners of the Mecklenburghers are much the same as those of the other natives of Germany, of which I have given you an account in a former letter. They are patient, docile, sincere, and hospitable; but, like most northern nations, too much addicted to jollity and good cheer. Their virtues, however, far over-balance their failings. The peasants are laborious, and make very good soldiers. Among the burghers there are some few who acquire considerable fortunes by trade, and others who are conspicuous in the polite arts. The nobility have produced great numbers of brave officers, and able statesmen; several of whom have distinguished themselves in foreign service.

This country being seated on the Baltic, and remarkable for its fertility, one might naturally imagine its trade and manufactures to be in a flourishing condition; but the inhabitants, by a kind of fatality, have been very neglectful in making a proper use of the materials of trade, and in applying themselves to the arts and manufactures. Their country produces plenty of wool, flax, hemp, hides; yet little or none is manufactured, but all sent abroad, and chiefly to Hamburg, from whence they receive manufactured commodities. In the towns they have few artificers, and most of them foreigners. The greater part of the corn, the staple of the land, is also exported, which enhances the price to the inhabitants. It is true, duke Frederick William encouraged a colony of French refugees to settle and erect manufactures of cloth, leather, snuff, hats, stockings, &c. at Butzow in 1703; and the same encouragement was given by duke Adolph Frederick II. at Strelitz; yet neither of those schemes answered expectation. But baron Dewitz has shewn himself very zealous for promoting the manufactures of this country, and encouraging artificers from all the neighbouring parts, especially from Brandenburg, to settle in the duke's dominions. His endeavours have met with some success, and, as I mentioned to you in a former letter, the duke's troops are clothed from head to foot with the manufactures

factures of Mecklenburg. Commercial schemes are also talked of in the duchy of Schwerin; but I know not whether they will ever be carried into execution: such as that of digging a canal from the town of Wismar to the lake of Schwerin, and making the Stoor and Elde navigable, so as to establish a communication between the North Sea and the Baltic, without passing through the Sound. New harbours might also be opened on the Baltic; for there are only two at present, Rostock and Wismar, the last of which is in the possession of the Swedes. It would be no difficult matter, for instance, to make another at New Buckow, and a third at Ribbenitz; the advantages of which would greatly overbalance the expence.

But let the princes give ever so much encouragement to manufactures, unless they have the concurrence of the nobility, their endeavours, I am afraid, will prove ineffectual. Now the nobility and gentry, which is here the same thing, have a contempt for trade, and are most strangely attached to their ancient customs. If a gentleman dies, and leaves several sons, and a small estate clogged with many debts; their income will not maintain them, and they are unacquainted with any means of getting their bread. Some few betake themselves to the army; but what becomes of the rest? They are a burden to their acquaintance and relations, and even to the state;

or

or they linger life away in a manner painful to themselves. Were they allowed, as in England, to enter into trade, how many distressed and ruined families might have continued in opulence!

Should a gentleman of a considerable estate, but encumbered, meet with an advantageous match, with a lady of elegant form and amiable accomplishments, possessed also of a fortune sufficient to clear all his debts; unless her lineage is answerable, unless she can reckon six successive generations of nobility, all the rest will not avail: the prejudices in point of descent will not allow him to close with the means of making himself happy, and useful to his country.

If you offer to advise a gentleman not to send his raw products, such as wool, hides, flax, &c. out of the country, but rather sell them something cheaper at home, which will save the expences of carriage, and those raw materials will be wrought by the people of Mecklenburg: though you make it plainly appear to him that this will invite manufacturers, that the towns will flourish, and, in case of a war or any other calamity, be able to bear part of the burden; that by the increase of people in the towns, his grain, cattle, wood, vegetables and fruits, will fetch the better price; that these constitute the best part of the income of an estate; that all his raw products scarce

bear a proportion of five per cent to those ; that consequently he will be amply made amends for what small losses he may at first sustain by selling cheaper at home: though you lay before him the examples of many states, where the exportation of raw goods is in some cases made capital: though you urge to him that Poland and Spain are the only countries except Mecklenburg, where wool is allowed to be exported ; that in the latter this is owing to the sloth, and partly to the wrong way of thinking of the inhabitants ; and in the former its perpetual confusions are an obstruction to all salutary measures; that in both superstition, prejudice, and disorder prevail, whilst in the neighbouring countries trade flourishes, and the inhabitants are industrious, rich, and happy : lay all these truths before him in the strongest manner, and the answer he will make is, that burghers must be kept low, and prosperity begets insolence ; or he will plead old customs, and freedom to dispose of his property as he pleases; and to be sure he will not omit the privileges of his rank.

But, beside this impediment to trade on the part of the nobility, there are others which arise from the magistrates and inhabitants of the several towns. The generality of the artificers and handicrafts-men, instead of any desire, disposition, or endeavour to improve their art, rather persist in

in an adherence to antient custom. Besides their inclination to pleasure, and things foreign from their calling, many evil practices have crept in among them, which prove extremely detrimental both to manufactures and handicrafts. Apprentices, instead of learning their trade, are employed by the master in the business of the house, as hewing of wood, working in the garden, &c. When they are out of their time, their peregrination, for the sake of improving in their trade, a practice usual among the Germans, seldom exceeds the limits of their own country; and after having, in this way, served a year or two as journeymen, they come home and set up for themselves. Now, as they have learned nothing thoroughly, nor acquired any great skill or readiness by practice, the goods of their making are generally both indifferent and very dear. To this it is owing that their home-made goods will not go to market out of their own country; nay, they are fallen into such discredit at home, that considerable sums go abroad, which Mecklenburg artificers might have earned, if they were more reasonable in their prices, and more skilful in their trade. It must be owing to this extortion and unskilfulness that artificers living forty or more miles off, meet with a ready market at the fairs in this country, their wares being better than the home-

made, and sold something lower, after all the charges of carriage, tolls, and duties.

A very sensible gentleman of this country has observed, that in erecting new manufactures, or supporting those already erected, and bringing them under better regulations, it would not be amiss were the magistrates of the towns to invite skilful and experienced workmen from the countries noted for making particular goods, that the townsmen's children who are disposed to learn a trade, may be better instructed. And when such a one is, by the custom of the trade, discharged from his apprenticeship, the magistracy should appoint both the time and place of his peregrination; and it should be a place known to excel in that business to which the young man has been brought up, and where, consequently, it may be supposed to flourish; and, on his return, he should not be admitted to take up his freedom, and set up for himself, without an authentic certificate, that he had worked the time appointed at such a place, had behaved with sobriety and diligence; and this certificate he is to confirm by some new piece of work of his own making.

The same gentleman has more than once complained to me of the want of domestic economy among the citizens and trading people. They lose sight of this useful maxim: that needless expences should be lessened, and that frugality

frugality is the way to encrease their income. They should always bear in mind that more comings-in and less goings-out is the sure road to prosperity; and that without it industry, diligence, and labour, are to little or no purpose. Now the burghers throughout this country are very deficient in this article, living generally above their income, and some in great luxury and extravagance.

But a capital error of the burghers is their meddling with farming and grazing, instead of sticking to their respective trades and callings: this generally proves a mistaken œconomy, very unhappy in its consequences. Many of the burghers would fain be both tradesmen and farmers, and thus are neither to any purpose. Some absolutely quit their trades, or carry them on as if they did not care which end went forward; thus trade and manufactures they neglect, and graziery and agriculture they do not understand. If a bit of land is to be sold, they immediately purchase it, and often with borrowed money. Such conduct very seldom answers; what they get in their shop is lost in the field, thro' ignorance and mismanagement.

But if tradesmen must be dabbling in rural affairs, they should confine themselves, as the before-mentioned gentleman observed, to the keeping of cows: pastures are not so chargeable,

able, and do not require any thing like the time as tillage. Milk and butter are necessities in house-keeping, especially as few women drink coffee without milk; and this liquor is now growing into vogue, even among the very lowest class. It is likewise proper that the towns should not wholly depend on the country people for milk, butter, and cheese, meats, fowls, geese, ducks, eggs, &c. Nay, it is highly necessary to prevent this dependence, the peasants here scarce applying themselves to any thing but the article of corn.

But it gives me some concern to hear, that in many towns, the magistrates themselves have greatly obstructed the progress of trade and manufactures. They are generally at variance with the sovereign, or with the burghers. Some of them, indeed, are said to have good intentions, and to be men of zeal and probity; but a greater number are represented as void of the qualities requisite for such offices, headstrong and passionate, acting from wrong principles, and intirely blinded by prejudices: such magistrates cause a schism in the state, looking upon the interest of the corporation as different from that of the burghers. And where affairs are not in so bad a way, all the care they take of public affairs is to follow the beaten track of ancient custom; to receive the town revenues, to audit its accounts, and sometimes with a patriotic air to hold forth
on

on their rights and privileges; and when perhaps some amendment is proposed, absolutely to declare against any thing that has the appearance of novelty. Whatever does not agree with their own conceit or conveniency, is pronounced impracticable, and exploded with derision. If the sovereign interposes his endeavours to prevent the exactions of avarice, and an arbitrary increase of the price of provisions, they use all their endeavours to defeat such good intentions, that every thing may remain in the former confusion; and if they cannot immediately prevent the publication of wholesome laws, they take care to elude them, by conniving at delinquents. Such is the bad consequence of intestine divisions. I speak here only of the magistrates in the duke of Mecklenburg Schwerin's dominions; with regard to the territories of the duke of Strelitz, I can assure you that there is a perfect harmony between the duke and his subjects.

Most of the noblesse or gentry of Mecklenburg are the descendants of those *milites*, or men at arms, among whom Henry the Lion duke of Saxony and Bavaria divided this country, after he had deposed Pribislaus II. the last king of the Venedi and Obotrites. To these, as companions of his fortune, his officers, fellow-soldiers, &c. he gave away the conquered lands, in reward for their military service.

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This is the origin of most of the ancient nobility of Europe, the possession of lands by right of conquest. They had few or no titles of counts or barons; but from their military service were called *equites* or *milites*. There were three orders of them, the *milites* (the same as the *equites*) the *armigeri*, and the *pueri*. The *milites* or knights were distinguished by a shield, and armed at all points. The *armigeri* were also called *servi*, or ecuyers, that is shield-bearers; and by others, *satellites*, and *tyrones*: these were such as had not served their full apprenticeship, that is, who had not attended the knight in all his military expeditions and tournaments during the space of seven years, and therefore were not as yet intitled to the *cingulum militare*. The third rank were the *pueri*, or *schildknappen*, young lads whose age did not as yet permit them to bear arms, but only attended the *equites* to the field, where they performed some kind of menial service.

The *armigeri* and *pueri* were both maintained by the *miles*, or *eques*, and wore his livery, which was no way dishonourable; they were emancipated by a box on the ear, and this by the French was called *mise hors de pain*. I shall mention a word or two concerning the severe education of the *pueri* from a writer of the middle ages, named Rolevingius. “ Their apprenticeship
“ may be compared to martyrdom. At five
“ years of age, they are snatched as it were
“ from

“ from the cradle, mounted on horseback, and
“ taught to ride. They sleep in the midst of
“ hay and dung, and are not suffered to move
“ from thence, till the master of the stable
“ comes. They are made wet with horses
“ urine, bedawbed with dirt, kicked and
“ cuffed about. When the riding-master
“ makes his appearance, he orders them to
“ mount and perform their exercise. They
“ are checked and reprimanded on the least
“ occasion, and obliged to bear hardships al-
“ most beyond their strength. The same dis-
“ cipline is observed in the courts of princes,
“ where they are equally trained to military
“ exercise. When they come to the age of
“ puberty, they are honoured with the shield,
“ girt round with a belt, and armed with a
“ spear, sword, and arrows. Then, like a
“ forlorn hope, they march valiantly to
“ battle.”

From such ancestors are descended the present noblesse of Mecklenburg; and it was not, according to Crantzius, till the fifteenth century that they came to be distinguished by the title of nobles. But the Mecklenburghers reckon two sorts of nobility; one *collata*, and the other *innata*: the former is conferred by patent or creation, and not much valued; the other, derived from their ancestors in a line of succession, is in high esteem. This is what the French call *noblesse du sang*. To this day

day they have scarce any other nobility in this country; they are the same as our ancient gentry in England, descended from good families, and possessed of landed estates. Properly speaking, there are but three barons in the country, Hahn, Molzahn, and Plesse, created formerly by the dukes of Mecklenburg, and one or two counts, created by the emperor. Out of courtesy, however, it is usual to call the noblesse by the title of baron; but many of them despise it, and prefer that of a noble Mecklenburgher.

The nobility in this country are divided into families of Venedic or Slavonian extraction, and those of German descent. The latter are subdivided into the ancient German families, and those whose ancestors purchased estates in this country within a century or two. I shall give you a list of all three, in their alphabetical order.

I. Noble families of VENEDIC or SLAVONIC original.

Axkow, Barnekow, Bassewitz, Barnewitz, Below, Camptz, Dewitz, Flotow, Grabow, Gentzkow, Grambow, Grebenitz, Gamm, Koppelow, Klenow, Klevenow, Krakewitz, Levitzow, Linftow, Lowtzow, Luderitz, Molzahn, Netzow, Pluskow, Pinnow, Pritzbuer, Prignitz, Quitzow, Quilitz, Retzow, Stoiff, Tornow, Wopersnow, and Zulow.

2. Ancient GERMAN families.

Ahrenstorff, Barner, Barold, Barffe or Basse, Beehr, Berckentin, Bernstorff, Bibow, Booth, Blucher, Buch, Buchwald, Bulow, Cramohn, Dechow, Dessiehn, Ditten, Drieberg, Freyberg, Gloden, Grube, Guel or Juel, Haacke, Haane or Hahn, Halberstadt, Hobe, Holstein, Jahne, Jassmund, Ihlenfeld, Kerberg, Kerdorff, Kettelhut, Kettenburg, Knefbeck, Knuth, Koppelow, Kofte, Kofsebade, Lancken, Lechsten, Lepel, Lucke, or Glucke, Von der Luhe, Luzow, Manteuffel, Mollendorff, Molcke, Nengendanck, Oertz, Oldenburg, Von der Osten, Parsow or Passau, Peccatel, Pederstorff, Pentze, Pleffen, Preen, Pressentien, Pritzbuer, Raben, Raden, Retztorff, Riebe, Rohr, Schack, Scheele, Schwerin, Sperling, Sprengel, Staffeld, Strahlendorff, Thomstorff, Vieregge, Vofs, Wackerbart, Wangelien, Warborg, Warstede, Weltziehn, Wenckstern, Winterfeld, Zepelien, Zule.

3. GERMAN families settled in MECKLENBURG within a century or two.

Bardeleben, Berg, Bornfeld, Bothmar, Bredow, Brockdorff, Brockhusen, Brown, Bueck, Criwitz, Cræcher, Deginck, Donner, Dæring, Dorn, Dunckherr, Ehrenstein, Engel, Erlenkamp, Evert, Fabricius, Ferber, Finck, Freyburg, Goeben, Goeden, Hammerstein, Von der Hard, Hein, Holle, Horn,

Horn, Hunemärder, Jurgas, Kalckreuter, Kalisch, Kayferling, Kielmanfegg, Klausenheimb, Klein, Klinckgraff, Kruger, Kurtzrock, Laffert, Langermann, Legat, Marschall, Meerheim, Millies, La Motte, Muller de Lutzne, Mumme, Nerow, Normann, Oerenstadt, Peterward, Plonnies, Powisch, Du Puitz, Ranzow, Reder, Reymerfen, Ribbeck, Saala, Scheiter, Scheven, Schmettau, Schuckmann, Schutz, Schwartz, Sturm, Tobing, Treuenfels, Vietinghoff, Waldau, Wedel, Wendhausen, Wendland, Werpup, Werthern, Wetig, Wickedden, Witzendorff, Wolfrath.

From the above list you may judge what a numerous noblesse they have in this country; and several of these families are divided into different branches. Hence it is that such numbers of them go into foreign service, it being impossible for them all to be employed at home. For there are not places enough at the two ducal courts, and the prejudices of the country will not permit any of them to have recourse to commerce. Besides, the custom of gavel-kind obtains throughout Mecklenburg; the consequence of which is, that the nobility become every day poorer and more numerous. Yet there are some noblemen here very rich; baron Hahn in particular, a subject of the duke of Strelitz, is said to be worth 1000,000 rix-dollars per annum, an immense estate for this country.

country. I mentioned to you before that the privileges of the noblesse are very great, and after many contests with the dukes, have been finally settled by the last convention in 1755.

Thus I have given you, my dear friend, a circumstantial account of the country, and its inhabitants; I shall now attempt a sketch of its constitution and form of government.

The CONSTITUTION and GOVERNMENT of MECKLENBURG.

THE duchy of Mecklenburg is subject to two princes of the same illustrious family, whose origin is lost in the darkness of antiquity. It is certain that this country was first inhabited by the Vandals, a nation of whom we know very little, except from the Roman historians. I have given in my *Vandalia* the succession of the Vandal kings, from Anthyrius I. down to Rhadgastus II. partly from tradition, and partly from ancient history, between which you will make a proper distinction. The country having been drained of inhabitants in the fifth century by the migrations of the Vandals, the Sclavi or Venedi, a nation of *Sarmatia Europæa*, came to occupy their territories. This nation of the Venedi extended themselves from the Vistula to the Elbe, and were governed by their own kings; who, from the principal tribe inhabiting the present country of Mecklen-

Mecklenburg, were oftentimes called kings of the Obotrites. The Mecklenburg historians assert, that these kings of the Venedi and Obotrites were descended from the Vandal kings; that the Venedi came as friends and not as conquerors; and that the two nations of the Vandals and the Venedi coalesced into one, and continued to be subject to the princes of the ancient royal line. This opinion is founded on tradition and plausible arguments, which you may see in my *Vandalia*.

The first king of the Venedi and Obotrites we meet with in history, is Witzan or Witslaus, cotemporary of Charlemagne, and slain in battle in 795. From Witzan we find a succession of kings down to Pribislaus II. who after a bloody war, to which the battle of Demmin put an end in 1164, was dispossessed of his dominions by Henry the Lion, duke of Saxony and Bavaria, ancestor of his present majesty king George III. Pribislaus was afterwards restored to a great part of his dominions by the same prince who had dethroned him; but he was deprived of the regal title, and in him the kingdom of the Venedi and Obotrites had a final period. From that time, viz. from 1167, till the year 1348, the sovereigns of this country were stiled lords and princes of Mecklenburg. In 1348. Albert I. a descendant of Pribislaus II. was created duke of Mecklenburg and prince of the empire by the emperor Charles IV.

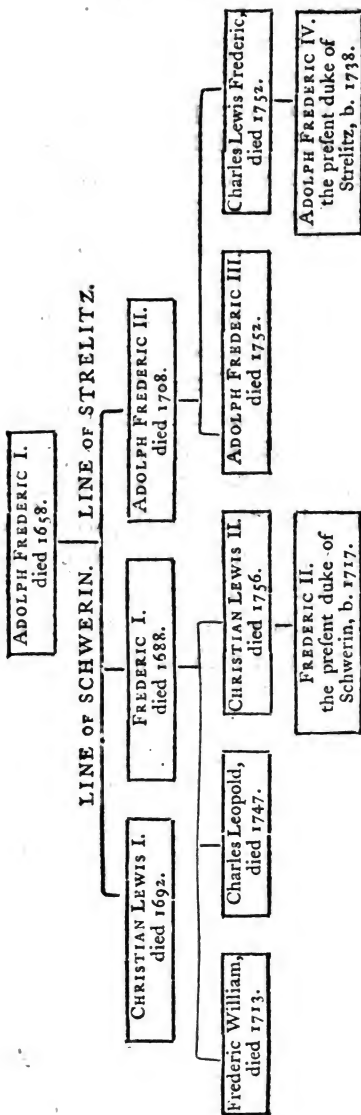
and his posterity continue still in possession of this dignity.

Towards the middle of the last century, this illustrious house came to be divided into the two lines of Mecklenburg Schwerin, and Mecklenburg Strelitz. Duke Adolphus Frederic I. died in 1658, and left several children, besides a posthumous son, Adolphus Frederic II. His eldest son Christian Lewis I. died in 1692 without issue. Frederic I. a brother of this prince, founded the line of Schwerin, and Adolphus Frederick II. the line of Strelitz. Frederic I. died in 1688. His two eldest sons reigned successively after their uncle, but left no male issue; his third son Christian Lewis II. succeeded his brother Charles Leopold in 1747, and deceased in 1756. To him succeeded his son Frederic II. the present duke of Mecklenburg Schwerin,

To come to the line of Mecklenburg Strelitz: the duke of Mecklenburg Gustrow dying without issue in 1695, duke Frederic William of the Schwerin branch pretended to the sole inheritance of the duchy of Gustrow. This produced a contest between him and his father's younger brother, duke Adolphus Frederic II. of Mecklenburg Strelitz; which contest was at length amicably adjusted at Hamburg, by a convention signed in 1701. In virtue of this agreement, duke Frederic William was to have the duchy of Mecklenburg proper, the principality of Schwerin, the principality of Wenden,

Wenden, the county of Schwerin, and the lordship of Rostock. Duke Adolphus Frederic II. had to his share the principality of Ratzeburg, the lordship of Stargard, the ancient commanderies of Mirow and Nemerow, with a yearly revenue of 9000 dollars out of the toll of Boitzenburg. Duke Adolphus II. the first of the line of Strelitz, died in 1708. He was succeeded by his son duke Adolphus Frederic III. who had also a brother, Charles Lewis Frederic, duke of Mirow. Adolphus Frederic III. died without issue in 1752: his brother died before him, but left issue four sons and two daughters. The eldest son is the present duke of Mecklenburg Strelitz, Adolphus Frederic IV. who succeeded his uncle in 1752, and one of the daughters is her present Majesty of Great Britain. But for a clearer explanation of this matter, I will give you a short table, which will shew the whole at one view.

ADOLPH



From this sketch you may see that there is not a sovereign family in Europe, of greater antiquity and splendor of descent than the serene house of Mecklenburg. Name me a prince among them all, whose ancestors were possessed of the regal dignity at the time of Charlemagne. But it appears that the princes of this serene house were kings of the Venedi and Obotrites in the eighth century, and had concluded an alliance with that great restorer of the Western empire. This is no fabulous account, but a fact clearly traced in history. It is true, the princes of this house afterwards met with great vicissitudes. One time they were dispossessed of their dominions, another juncture raised them to the throne of Sweden; but the family still subsists with dignity, and makes a considerable figure among the states of the empire. Intermarriages between them and the other great houses of Europe have been frequent. The sovereigns of Denmark, Sweden, Poland, and Prussia, have married princesses of this illustrious house; most of the German princes have followed the example; and Britain now rejoices in the like auspicious union.

Having given you this short account of the princes of this country, I come now to delineate its constitution and form of government. But this constitution being analogous to that of the whole empire, I shall first draw a sketch of the government of the Ger-

manic body. This government is a limited monarchy, having the emperor for its head, and the states of the empire are its members. But these states, as my friend M. Reinhard has justly observed to me, are not only members, but *Conregnantes*, forming together with the emperor that body in which resides the supreme power. The states of the empire are divided into three classes, the college of electors, the college of princes, and lastly, that of the imperial cities. The electors are nine, three spiritual, the archbishops of Mentz, Triers, and Cologne; and six temporal, the king of Bohemia, the dukes of Bavaria and Saxony, the marquis of Brandenburg, the Count Palatine of the Rhine, and the duke of Hanover. The empire of Germany was founded in the year 800 by Charlemagne, whose posterity down to Lewis IV. held it by hereditary right; but by the weakness of his successors, it became elective. The emperor's authority is much confined, and his revenues very small; yet he is the fountain of honour, creating dukes, princes, marquisses, &c. and he has the sole power of convening the diet. This assembly consists of the emperor, the nine electors, the spiritual and temporal princes, and the deputies of the imperial cities. Their meeting is held at Ratisbon, where they enact laws, raise taxes, conclude alliances, or determine differences between the members of their own body. Besides this assembly, there
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are two supreme courts of judicature, called the Aulic council and the chamber of Wetzlar, to which lies an appeal from the subjects of the states of the empire, when they think themselves aggrieved.

The college of princes is very numerous, consisting of dukes, margraves, landgraves, princes absolutely so called, and counts. These were originally titles of personal offices, which they held under the emperor. The dukes (*duces*) were governors of provinces, and had also the command of the troops in their respective duchies; *hertzog*, the German name for a duke, signifying the chief or leader of an army. Subordinate to these were the counts, who administered justice in a certain district, by the Germans called *Gau*; whence comes the name of provinces terminating in *gau*, as *Suntgau*, *Nortgau*, &c. The counts in the Teutonic language were stiled *Grau* (afterwards changed into *Graff*) which signifies *gray*; because they are supposed originally to have been aged persons, who attended the emperor in his circuit through the provinces (from whence they took the Latin name of *Comites*) and assisted him with their counsel. Though the employment of those counts or *Graves* seems to have been purely civil, yet in time of war they had the command of the troops within their district. Those who commanded on the frontier were called Margraves, from the word *marcke*,
fig.

signifying a frontier. Those who had a whole province under their jurisdiction, were stiled Landgraves; those who were intrusted with the administration of justice within the palace, took the title of Pfaltzgraves, or Counts Palatine; and such as had only the government of a fort or castle, were called Burgraves. Some of them were denominated from their place of government, as Rhingrave, the count who governed the province of the Rhine, &c.

All these titles, as I mentioned to you before, originally implied no more than personal offices; but at present they denote hereditary lordships. The princes of the empire are all sovereigns in their respective territories, having an absolute jurisdiction over their subjects, except where the diet or the supreme courts of the empire have a right to interpose. Thus they enact laws, regulate ecclesiastical affairs (in Protestant districts) raise taxes, conclude alliances with foreign princes and with one another, build fortresses, levy troops, and coin money; in short, they exercise most acts of sovereignty consistent with the interest and good order of the whole empire.

It is the confederacy of these princes that forms the Germanic body. They are divided into two classes, called the ancient and the modern houses. The former, being superior in power and dignity to the latter, have a precedency at the diet: but they are all equally intitled to vote at
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that assembly. The ancient and great houses are, first, the archdukes of Austria; second, the dukes of Bavaria and Counts Palatine, who are both of the same family; third, the dukes of Saxony; fourth, the marquesses or margraves of Brandenburg; fifth, the dukes of Brunswick and Lunenburg; sixth, the dukes of Mecklenburg; seventh, the dukes of Wurtemberg; eighth, the landgraves of Hesse; ninth, the margraves of Baden; tenth, the dukes of Holstein; eleventh, the princes of Anhalt. But it is necessary to observe, that in the college of princes, at the imperial diet, there is an essential difference between the princes called dukes, margraves, landgraves, or simply princes, and the counts; namely, that the counts are distributed into four classes, each of which has only a single vote; whereas every prince has his vote, and some more than one at the diet.

From this summary view of the government of the empire, you may form an idea of that of the duchy of Mecklenburg, as they are both framed nearly on the same plan. The duchy of Mecklenburg is a limited government, of which the duke is the head, and the provincial states the members. The duke's power is so far abridged, that in the enacting of laws he is obliged to consult with the states. The country is divided into three circles: the first, that of Mecklenburg, the capital of which, since the cession of Wismar to the Swedes, is
Par-

Parchim; the second circle is that of Wenden, the capital Gustrow; the third is that of Stargard, the capital New Brandenburg. The two first belong to the duke of Mecklenburg Schwerin, and the third to the duke of Mecklenburg Strelitz. The whole duchy contains forty-five towns, besides three convents, and a vast number of seats and villages belonging to the nobility, on which are dependent fifteen or sixteen thousand *hufes* or manors. A *hufe* is a land measure equal to thirty acres. For one moiety of these *hufes* the nobility pay as a contribution to the sovereign, nine dollars each *hufe*; the other moiety, which they call *ritterhufen*, are free, and independent.

The nobility form the first state, and enjoy great privileges. Their estates are valued at twenty millions and seven hundred thousand rix-dollars; the yearly income of which is ten hundred and thirty-five thousand rix-dollars; and reckoning the villages and towns, the whole yearly revenue of the country is computed at four millions five thousand rix-dollars. This surpasses the income of many dukedoms, and even of some electorates.

The commons or burghers are the second state, and represented by the deputies of the towns, under the direction of the respective capital of the circle. In the year 1523 the nobility and commons of the three circles entered
into

into a compact of union, which has been confirmed by the dukes at different times, and lately by the convention of Rostock, in 1755. In virtue of this compact, all the free inhabitants of each circle shall enjoy a full equality of rights, privileges, and immunities, so as to be governed by the same laws and ordinances, both in civil and ecclesiastical matters. And this is not only an union of the circles, but also of the states; the nobility and commons agreeing to a participation and community of all their rights and privileges, and to their having an equal right of voting in the provincial diets.

The power of summoning these diets is in the sovereign, who convenes them generally every autumn, in order to settle the annual contributions towards the service of government, or to regulate other matters of public concern. The writs are issued out to the states of the three circles, four weeks before they meet; and in these writs are mentioned the articles on which they are to debate. The meetings are held alternately at Sternberg and Malchin.

The officers of state are eight land-raths or provincial counsellors; four for the duchy of Schwerin, three for Gustrow, and one for Stargard. These officers are chosen by the order of the nobility, and confirmed by the sovereign. Each circle has also a marshal of its own, which

office is hereditary in the noble families of Lutzow, Molzahn, and Hahn.

Besides the diet, there is a committee of the states to manage affairs relating to the general union, and to watch over their rights and privileges. This committee consists of two provincial counsellors, three deputies of the nobility (being one from each circle), one deputy of the town of Rostock, and one from each capital of the circles, viz. Parchim, Gustrow, and New Brandenburg. This assembly, consisting of nine persons (whose number, however, may be increased by the states at their own expense) resides at Rostock, and is considered as a college representative of the whole body of the nobility and commons.

For the determination of private property there are three courts of law, those of Schwerin, Gustrow, and Strelitz. Besides these, at Gustrow they have an aulic and provincial court of justice, which sits the whole year. To this provincial court lies an appeal from the three tribunals of Schwerin, Gustrow, and Strelitz. Yet, as counsellor Reinhard has observed to me, the latter are not inferior or subordinate tribunals; nor is the provincial court ever called the high court *; but the four tribunals are per-

* This corrects a mistake in my introduction to *Vandalia*, p. 11, where I call the provincial court a superior tribunal.

fectly equal. It is true, there are appeals to the provincial court; but they are appeals, as the same gentleman told me, of a particular kind, *appellationes ad parem*. This provincial court is common, not only to the two ducal lines, but to the states, who have likewise a share in nominating the members. The dukes appoint the president, vice-presidents, and four assessors. The nobility send one ordinary and four extraordinary assessors: the other ordinary assessors are chosen by the principality of Schwerin, and by the university and town of Rostock. Where the duke's prerogative, *de non interpellando*, does not interpose, causes may be removed from this, and all the other courts, to the high tribunals of the empire. This prerogative, granted to the dukes of Mecklenburg by the emperor Ferdinand III. in 1651, extends to all criminal causes, and in civil matters to suits under 2000 florins, which, reckoning the different value of money from that time, is extended by some lawyers to 1937 rixdollars. In towns, the first hearing of causes is invested in the magistrates. For the decision of feudal matters, there are also two courts, one at Schwerin, and the other at Strelitz; but there lies no appeal from these to the provincial court. At Rostock they have also a tribunal, called the consistory, for determining ecclesiastical causes. The supreme court belonging to the dukes is that of the privy council of regency; the de-

mesne chamber has the managing of matters which concern the revenue.

The laws of Mecklenburg are either *jura scripta*, or *consuetudinaria*; and these, again, are either general, particular, or quite special. The general German laws are the decrees of the imperial diet, relating to the administration of justice, the police, &c. which bind the whole empire. The particular or provincial laws are those enacted by the dukes with the consent of the states. These relate either to spiritual or to temporal matters. The former contain all the ordinances concerning the superintendents, the *præpositi*, the ceremonies, the liturgy, and, in short, whatever comes under the name of consistorial ordinances, of which they have a code. The latter comprehend whatever relates to the constitution and form of government, the police, the army, feudal causes, the finances, the administration of civil and criminal justice, and the public taxes or contributions. These are also collected into a code of ducal edicts or constitutions. The quite special laws are those statutes and regulations which belong to corporations, and have been granted by the dukes to particular towns, or made with their consent. Thus Rostock, Wismar, &c. have their municipal laws, most of which are borrowed from those of Lubeck and Schwerin.

The annual revenue of the dukes of Mecklenburg

lenburg Schwerin arises from the tolls, excise, and other duties, which, together, may amount to about seven hundred thousand rixdollars a year. The contribution of the nobility, agreeably to the perpetual convention of 1755, is paid by half the taxable *hufes* or manors. The contributions of the freemen residing on the estates and in the villages belonging to towns, as also those of the towns themselves, have been finally settled. With this annual public revenue, and a subsidy proportionable to that yielded by the taxable *hufes* or manors of the nobility, the duke is to defray the expences of garrisons, fortifications, envoys, diets extraordinary, assemblies, and payments to the imperial chamber at Wetzlar. Notice is annually given of these contributions at the diets of the province, and then they are levied by an order of the sovereign. Such are the ordinary contributions; besides which there are occasional taxes for the service of the empire, for the circle of Lower Saxony, or for the support of the unmarried princesses of the serene family: these the duke makes known at the general diet, by communicating an authentic copy of the resolutions of the empire and circle of Lower Saxony to that assembly. The princesses tax is fixed at twenty thousand rix-dollars, and levied on the whole country without exception, except in such years as a tax is required for the empire and circle of Lower Saxony.

Beside the above contributions there are free gifts, regulated by the consent of the nobility and commons. The villages and parcels of lands belonging to corporations, as also the vassals of the clergy, are obliged to pay their assessments to those free gifts for the public service. There has been of late a considerable deduction from the revenue of the duke of Mecklenburg Schwerin, by the mortgage of his share of the toll of Boitzenburg on the Elbe, and eight bailiwicks, to the house of Brunswick Lunenburg. This was settled by the emperor Charles VI. to indemnify that house for the charges incurred in executing the imperial commission, in 1732, against the present duke's uncle Charles Leopold, who in a contest with the nobility had refused to submit to the imperial decree. These charges amounted to upwards of a million of rixdollars. The above demesnes produce an annual income of sixty thousand dollars, and were sequestered for paying the interest of the money expended in executing the commission, as likewise for discharging part of the capital. This, however, was not to affect the duke of Mecklenburg Strelitz; his stipulated share of the Boitzenburg toll, viz. 9000 dollars a year, was ordered to be paid with the usual regularity. But the duke of Mecklenburg Schwerin has lately paid off one half of the mortgage, and I am informed that the money is almost ready to discharge the remainder.

The revenues of the duke of Mecklenburg Strelitz arise from the circle of Stargard, the principality of Ratzeburg, the Boitzenburg toll, the public contribution of the nobility and commons, and other duties, which may amount in the whole to about three hundred thousand rix-dollars a year. But, as I mentioned to you before, this prince's demefnes are improving daily; and Baron Dewitz makes no doubt but in nine or ten years time his income will be doubled.

By the convention of Hamburg, in 1701, the lordship of Stargard was ceded by Frederic-William, duke of Schwerin, to Adolphus-Frederic II. duke of Strelitz, *cum omni jure principum imperii*; so that the said duke Adolphus-Frederick II. should have a full power of exercising in that province both the territorial rights, and those of sovereign jurisdiction, in all civil and ecclesiastic causes. At the same time all the duke's vassals were to hold of him as direct and immediate lord of the fief; but the states of the province were to continue indissolubly united with the whole body of the states of Mecklenburg, to enjoy as formerly their votes and suffrages at the diet, and to be capable of holding the public offices, as those of provincial counsellors and assessors in the courts of justice, and directors or overseers of the convents. As this lordship constitutes one of the three circles of the whole country, the duke of Mecklenburg

Schwerin, on summoning his own states, gives notice thereof to the duke of Mecklenburg Strelitz, and informs him of the proposals which are to be laid before the assembly; he intreats him also to summon his states to that diet, and to acquaint them with his proposals. The taxes and contributions raised in this circle, like those of the other two, are remitted to the common treasury of the province of Rostock, from whence the contributions are delivered out to the dukes. Both these princes may appoint deputies to inquire into the necessities of the circles, and to the provincial court of justice at Gustrow; but the consistory at Rostock depends intirely on the duke of Mecklenburg Schwerin. The duke of Mecklenburg Strelitz appoints his superintendent to sit in the consistory at Strelitz, and his assessor to assist in the provincial court of justice at Gustrow. By the convention of Hamburg, the right of primogeniture is established in the two lines, the elder brother to be invested with the sovereignty, and the other brothers to have an appanage.

The number of forces maintained by the present dukes of Mecklenburg is inconsiderable, and little more than necessary to guard their persons, and preserve the public tranquillity. I mentioned to you, in a former letter, that the duke of Strelitz maintains five companies of foot, a troop of life-guards, and a
few

few hussars. The duke of Schwerin has three regiments of foot, two troops of life-guards, and a regiment of hussars. The troops of both dukes are all clothed alike in blue uniform, and trained to the Prussian discipline. Neither of these princes have any ambition to swell themselves beyond their natural strength, to invade the rights of others, or to disturb their neighbours. The present duke of Mecklenburg Schwerin's uncle, duke Charles Leopold, had a considerable army on foot; but it was by oppressing his subjects, and trampling upon the necks of the nobility. However, were the necessity of government to require it, the two dukes are able to maintain a body of fourteen or fifteen thousand men. The states do not contribute to the support of the troops; but the dukes are obliged to defray all the expences of the military establishment out of their own revenues. The nobility and their vassals are exempted from quartering the soldiers; but the towns only from finding quarters for the horse.

The same titles are assumed by the dukes of both lines, namely, those of duke of Mecklenburg, prince of Wenden, Schwerin, and Ratzeburg, count of Schwerin, and lord of Rostock and Stargard.

With regard to the ducal arms, their shield is party per pale, two bends divided into six fields, exclusive of an escutcheon. The first of these

these fields is topaz, a buffalo's head gardant ruby, crowned with horns pearl, with a ring of the same through its nostrils, for Mecklenburg. The second is sapphire, a griffin topaz, for Wenden. The third, party per fesse barry of two sapphire, with a griffin pearl, and a lozenge amethyst. Both these are held by the learned Beehr to be the arms of the lordship of Rostock. The escutcheon is party per fesse ruby and topaz, which, according to the same author, denote the arms of the county of Schwerin. The fourth is ruby, a cross wavy pearl, for the principality of Ratzeburg. The fifth ruby, an arm cloathed, pearl, and bound with a ribbon of the same, issuing from a cloud, and holding up a ring topaz, with a stone infixed, for the lordship of Stargard. The sixth is topaz, a buffalo's head diamond, with a crown topaz, and horns pearl, a tongue panting, and placed oblique; but to what this alludes is uncertain. The crest is composed of five helmets open and crowned: the first, for Mecklenburg, is surmounted with five pales, sharp-pointed, and joined towards the bottom; the first azure, the second or, the third gules, the fourth argent, the fifth sable, surmounted also with a buffalo's head sable, crowned with gules, horned argent, contourné and placed in profile; behind the head is a peacock's tail fastened towards the bottom to the upper part of the pales. The second, for Wenden, surmounted with two wings,

wings, the one azure, and the other or. The third, for Stargard, surmounted with two buffalo's horns couped with gules and or. The fourth, for Schwerin, surmounted with a half griffin. The fifth, for Ratzeburg, surmounted with seven lances, argent, to which are fastened towards the points the same number of small banners, also argent. The mantles are of all colours and metals. The supporters are on the right a buffalo, on the left a griffin. Part of these emblems have been prettily explained by an anonymous writer in the following verses :

*Meckleburgiacæ virtutem & robora gentis
Bucephali caput & gryphis imago notat.
Justitiæ & fidei studium nudata puellæ
Brachia, quamque offert annulus, arrha probat.*

At the diet of the empire, the duke of Mecklenburg Schwerin has three votes in the college of princes, and the same number in the assembly of the states of Lower Saxony; one for the duchy of Gustrow, another for the county of Schwerin, and a third for the principality of Schwerin. The duke of Mecklenburg Strelitz has also a vote at the said assemblies, in right of his principality of Ratzeburg; and his highness has a just claim to another vote for Stargard.

The assessment for this country, in the matricula of the empire, exclusive of Schwerin and Ratzeburg,

Ratzeburg, is forty horse, and sixty-seven foot, or 748 florins to a Roman month: but the crown of Sweden pays its proportion of this sum for the town of Wismar, and the bailiwicks of Poel and New-closter. The duchies of Schwerin and Gustrow pay 243 rixdollars to the imperial chamber at Wetzlar.

The dukes of Mecklenburg being descended from the kings of the Venedi and Obotrites, and having been independent sovereigns till they voluntarily became members of the Germanic body, may be well supposed to enjoy very great prerogatives. 1. They are *domini proprietarii*, or lords paramount of the whole country. 2. They can chuse what time they please to take the investiture of their dominions from the emperor, the diploma of their creation as dukes making use of the words, *quoties opportunum fuerit*. 3. They are perpetual chancellors of the university of Rostock. 4. They have a right to create counts and barons. 5. They have the privilege, as I mentioned to you before, *de non appellando*. 6. They have a right to coin money, and, in short, they exercise the same power as any other prince of the empire.

These princes have also several well-founded pretensions. The principal are, 1. Their pretension to the duchy of Saxe-Lawenburg, founded on the compact of inheritance, in 1431, between Bernárd of Saxe-Lawenburg, and

and Henry and John dukes of Mecklenburg; which treaty was renewed, in 1518, between Magnus duke of Saxe-Lawenburg, and Henry and Albert dukes of Mecklenburg. The duchy of Saxe-Lawenburg is now possessed by the electoral house of Brunswick-Lunenburg.

2. Their pretension to the landgraviate of Leuchtenberg, situate in the Upper Palatinate. This claim is founded on the right of expectancy granted to Henry duke of Mecklenburg, in 1502, by the emperor Maximilian I. who declared that this landgraviate should devolve to the house of Mecklenburg, if that of Leuchtenberg came to be extinct. The case happened in 1646, by the decease of the last landgrave, Maximilian Adam; yet the landgraviate was conferred on Albert duke of Bavaria, who had married Maria, Maximilian Adam's sister. The house of Mecklenburg, having been greatly reduced by the Thirty Years War, was not then in a condition to assert its rights.

3. Their pretension to the dignity and office of archi-scissor, or first carver of the empire. This dignity was conferred, in 1531, by the emperor Charles V. on Albert, duke of Mecklenburg, and his heirs; but it is now in disuse, though the claim has been revived by the ferene family.

So much for what relates to the government: I shall conclude with a word or two concerning the

the convents, and the state of learning in Mecklenburg.

There are three convents in this country, for ladies of the Lutheran religion; namely, those of Dobbertin, Ribbenitz, and Malchow, subject to the direction of the states. By the famous convention of 1755, these convents are to be maintained in their respective privileges; and both they and their estates are represented by the noblesse at the provincial diets. They cannot purchase without the approbation of the Sovereign. In short, they are a sort of free boarding-schools, founded on the ancient establishment, where young ladies, generally of the best families, are educated: some of them spend their lives in these houses, without taking either the religious vow or habit; neither are they tied down to many rules, but barely such as are requisite for the good order of the community. Being allowed to quit these houses, and marry when they please, they cannot be considered as lost to society.

Ever since the Reformation, learning has greatly flourished in the duchy of Mecklenburg. The university of Rostock, as I mentioned to you in a former letter, has produced a number of able professors in most branches of learning. Even many of the dukes themselves were eminent for literature, and most of them have favoured it with their patronage. The present dukes are remarkably fond of men
of

of letters, as appears by the literati promoted at New Strelitz, and by the eminent professors appointed at the university of Butzow. The salaries of those professors, I am told, are the best of any university in Germany; some of them have 800, others 1000 rixdollars *per annum*; yet they complain, as I mentioned to you from Butzow, that they have but few pupils. The clergy throughout the whole country are eminent in literature; the branches they most cultivate, besides theology, are the classics, history, and natural philosophy. The gentlemen of the law are distinguished also for their polite learning; and many of the physicians for natural philosophy and the mathematics, as well as for the medical art. There are few gentlemen of any note in the principal towns, but have their cabinets of curiosities, and take a delight in searching into the arcana of nature. The duke of Mecklenburg Schwerin sets the public an example, being a very good philosopher, and an excellent mechanic. The duke of Strelitz has also a taste for natural philosophy, which he studied under abbé Nollet. Hence a spirit of emulation seems to spread among the nobility, many of whom think it a greater honour to be known for their progress in learning and the polite arts, than for the largeness of their fortunes, or the antiquity of their pedigrees.

A person

A person of distinction was observing to me the other day, that next to vice, nothing can be a greater disgrace to a nobleman than ignorance. The word *nobilis*, he said, is probably derived from *noscibilis*, that is, distinguished or known; now learning is the most effectual way of making a person known, not only in his own, but in distant countries; not only in the present, but in future ages. What has made Homer, Plato, Socrates, Virgil, Cicero, Leibnitz, Locke, Newton known? Was it the splendor of their descent? No: it was their learning that proclaimed their fame, and consigned their names to immortality. This is being truly noble; it is a nobility which far surpasses that of blood; a nobility that can never be extinct. Nobility without learning is but an outward garment; strip such a person of his lace-trappings, and turn him into a cottage, you will find he has nothing to distinguish him from the peasant. If the rational capacity be that which renders man more noble than brutes, he who has taken the most care to improve that capacity, by exploring remote countries, by inquiring into the laws and customs of different kingdoms, by investigating the order and structure of created beings, by directing his studies to the improvement and happiness of society, must surely be deemed the noblest of men. How vain then the boast of titles, ribbons, and splendid gewgaws, when compared to the more solid advantages

vantages of learning! The custom of hereditary nobility, established in Europe, is owing to a presumption that the children will not degenerate from the virtues of their parents. But how false the presumption! Nothing indeed can be a stronger instance of the corruption of the present age, than the preference given to title and fortune, in competition with learning and virtue. Much better would it be to follow the practice of the Chinese, in ennobling none but the literati; so that if a mandarin's son should happen to be a blockhead, he is reduced to the state of a plebeian. He concluded then with that fine passage of Seneca; *Non facit nobilem atrium plenum fumosis imaginibus; nec quod ante nos fuit, nostrum est. Anima facit nobilem, cui ex quacunque conditione supra fortunam licet surgere* *. I own this nobleman's speech, which was delivered with some energy, gave me pleasure; it shewed a dignity of sentiment, and a candour, that I could not help admiring. I told him, however, that the corruption he complained of, namely, the preferring riches to merit had unfortunately obtained, more or less, in all ages, and countries; that

*O cives, cives, quærenda pecunia primum est,
Virtus post nummos,*

* Ep. 44.

was a maxim not more prevalent now than formerly; that I was glad to see the encouragement given to learning by the princes and nobility of Mecklenburg; but that I believed there was no country where the sciences were more encouraged, and more respect paid to men of letters, than in England; of which I gave several, and some of them living instances: I added, that our nobility were remarkable for their application to every branch of learning, and especially such as are necessary to form the statesman. He said he was not a stranger to this particular, and thus our conversation ended. I shall here take an opportunity of ending my letter, hoping you will be so good as to excuse me, should I happen to run into minuteness, as it proceeds intirely from a good intention, that of contributing to your amusement, and giving you some sort of proof that

I am,

Dear Sir, yours, &c.

LET-



L E T T E R XVI.

Strelitz, November 5, 1766.

DEAR SIR,

HAVING given you a description of the country and government of Mecklenburg, I having nothing more to add than my excursions in this neighbourhood, which have enabled me to make some new observations, and given me a farther insight into the customs and manners of the inhabitants.

Not long after my arrival at Strelitz, the duke mentioned to me that it would be proper I should pay a visit to baron Jassmund, who lives at a small distance from hence, at a village called Redlin. The reason his highness gave was, that this gentleman is one of the most learned in the whole country, and perfectly well versed in the history and antiquities of Mecklenburg: that he is also possessed of a great variety of printed books and manuscripts relating to those subjects; and consequently a fit person to consult with, in case I wanted

any farther lights or assistance. Baron Dewitz was present, and said it was by all means proper I should go; and that he would desire young M. Oertz, a relation of baron Jassmund, to bear me company. I returned his highness a great many thanks for the obliging intimation, and said I would set out as soon as M. Oertz was ready. The baron said it should be the next day, and he would take care to acquaint that young gentleman with the duke's intention. I have given you an account, in a former letter, of M. Oertz, who is brother to the baron of that name, gentleman of the bed-chamber to the duke. I shall only repeat to you here, that he is one of the best-humoured gentlemen I ever was in company with.

Early the next morning I breakfasted as usual with baron Dewitz, when he told me that he had ordered a chariot of his own to carry me to Redlin, and had sent to M. Oertz, who was ready to go with me. By nine o'clock M. Oertz came, and we set out immediately. The journey was short; for Redlin is not above eight miles from Strelitz. The first part of the road is very sandy, but we soon got into a pleasant wood belonging to the duke: within a mile or two of Redlin the country opened, and afforded an agreeable prospect. We reached Redlin by eleven, and drove to baron Jassmund's house. M. Oertz ordered his

his footman to knock at the door, and to acquaint the baron that Dr. Nugent from London was come to pay him a visit. I own I thought this a very absurd way of introducing me; but M. Oertz, being lively and facetious, would have it so, and said he would answer for the propriety of the message. The servant found the baron at home, and the answer was, that I was welcome to Redlin, and he should be very glad to see me. In two or three minutes the baron himself came to the door, but I must own made a whimsical appearance. He is a tall gentleman, of a thin habit of body, with good features, and a ruddy countenance; but his apparel was so mean, that I took him at first for a worn-out game-keeper. He was dressed in an old green frock, a tattered old hat, his wig without powder, and an old pair of boots. Tho' he is not much above sixty, I imagined him to be between seventy and eighty, by reason of his long beard, which I believe was of a fortnight's growth. Notwithstanding this uncouth appearance, he shewed himself the polite gentleman, in his manner of reception and welcoming me to his habitation. The house is large and commodious, but not at all handsome; for the nobility of this country are satisfied with conveniency, and few of them aim at elegance or beauty of architecture in

their country houses. After compliments were over, he ordered coffee, and Madam de Jassmund made her appearance. She is a very polite lady, of the noble family of Plesse, and though stricken in years still preserves the remains of beauty. M. Oertz having explained the motive of my visit, the baron very politely promised me all the assistance in his power; modestly adding, it could not answer his wishes, as he was grown old, and retired from the world; that his memory began to fail him, but that I was welcome to any papers or books in his possession. We chatted thus for some time, when the baron proposed to us to take a turn before dinner, in order to see the village and its environs. The proposal being agreed to, he carried us to a neighbouring eminence, from whence we had a view of the village of Redlin, and of a fine fruitful country. The village is pretty large, and the houses or cottages make a tolerable appearance: it is delightfully situated in a fruitful plain between two lakes. On the other side of the lesser lake stands Wantzka, a pleasant hamlet belonging to the duke of Strelitz, and formerly remarkable for a Cistercian abbey. The baron is possessed of a very large estate in this country, consisting of seven lordships, all improved lands. He seemed to take a great pleasure in pointing out to me the extent

tent and variety of his possessions, which render him one of the most opulent noblemen in this country. Yet he lives like a gentleman, seldom goes beyond his own grounds, and applies himself intirely to agriculture. He is reckoned ingenious in making sluices, and draining of wet lands. He has two sons, both of age, and accomplished young gentlemen. They have been educated at Berlin, but are now upon a tour of pleasure to Strasburg. From this appearance of circumstances, I thought baron Jassmund a most happy man; being possessed of a great estate, enjoying good health, blessed with an amiable lady, two fine sons, and an accomplished young lady for his daughter. I told him my thoughts, and as he is a scholar, repeated to him the well known lines of Horace, *Beatus ille qui procul negotiis*, &c. which I apprehended could, if to any one, be justly applied to a person in his situation. He sighed and said I was much mistaken. It is true, that he had a good estate, and thought he should be happy in spending his decline in retirement; but these were delusive dreams, and the very country life, from which he promised himself such felicity, had frustrated his expectations; that a terrible mortality raged among the cattle, especially on his estate, where it had made great havock; that the season was so very dry, he could not sow his wheat, which would be a great disappointment; that his estate was hemmed in on all

fides, by the duke's demesnes, which often involved him in disputes with his highness's stewards or bailiffs about breaches of privilege or trespasses. "*A-propos*, said he to me, I have heard that the kings of England have no crown lands; I could wish our dukes were on the same footing, and that they had a public allowance, in the nature of your civil list, sufficient to maintain their dignity." Thus he went on murmuring and complaining, and at the same time walked very fast, and over ploughed lands. For my part, I was heartily tired of such rough exercise, being a good deal heavier than either the baron or my young companion M. Oertz. I sweated to such a degree that I could bear it no longer, and I was obliged to tell the baron, that I should be glad to come to a place of rest. M. Oertz laughed very heartily; but the baron begged pardon, and immediately turned back the shortest way to Redlin. As we entered the village, we saw a common fellow with a dog; at which the baron seemed to be greatly exasperated, and told the man, that if he did not take his dog away forthwith, he would give orders to have him shot. The man submissively declared the dog would do no harm, but the baron was inexorable. I enquired into the cause of so much indignation; and he told me, that during the present mortality of the horned cattle, many people, instead of burying

burying the carcases, give them to the dogs, which spreads the infection; neither do they bury the hides, but expose them to the sun, after which they are sold to the tanners; that the duke had given orders to have the carcases with the hides buried deep under ground; but those orders were too often eluded. This conversation led us to his door, when dinner was just ready to be served up. Our entertainment was elegant, a soup and two courses, with choice of good wines: the Burgundy especially was excellent. I observed a great deal of plate, and a tea-table intirely of that metal. Madam de Jassmund, as I mentioned to you before, is a most complaisant lady, and perfect mistress of the ceremonies of the table.

In the course of conversation the baron mentioned several anecdotes of his own life, which were very entertaining. Among others, he told me that he had been at Hanover, upon a deputation from the states of Stargard, to king George II. That at this same time a country farmer had committed some act of violence on the king's horses and hounds, which had broke through his grounds; and that the duke of Newcastle (who had come over from England with the king) happening to be at table when the thing was mentioned, seemed to be very angry, and advised his Majesty to punish

punish the farmer for his insolence. The king smiled, and desired him to remember liberty and property, to which his subjects of Hanover were equally intitled with those of England. Talking of the king of Prussia, he told me that he had been informed of noblemen in Brandenburg, who disliking some of that prince's late proceedings (how justly he would not pretend to say) had taken a resolution to sell their estates, and remove to Mecklenburg, where they would be under a free government; but that the king found means to prevent them. Among other instances he mentioned that of baron Greyffenberg, who had actually disposed of his estate, and retired to this duchy; but the king being apprized of such a step, ordered the money to be stopped; so that M. Greyffenberg was obliged to return, and settle again in Brandenburg, greatly to his disadvantage. He mentioned this as an extraordinary policy in that monarch, to prevent the depopulation of Brandenburg, which certainly would be the consequence, were he to allow the migration of his subjects.

In discoursing about the nobility of Mecklenburg, he enlarged upon their privileges, and seemed very fond of curtailing the duke's prerogative. But he lamented greatly the custom of gavel-kind, apprehending that it will
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be the ruin of all the ancient families : for by dividing their paternal estates, their revenues are daily diminished ; and luxury increasing in the midst of poverty, they either become dependent on the dukes for preferment at court, or are obliged to go abroad for employment. That, for his part, he had often advised the nobility to enact a new law, for establishing the right of primogeniture, as the only means of preserving their estates, and their independence; but all to no purpose, so absurdly tenacious are they of their old customs. In the meantime he observed, that the duke's power was increasing daily by œconomy, good management, and purchases ; so that the nobility, these were his words, are all in danger of being swallowed up, or, which is the same thing, of being reduced to beggary.

Our conversation fell afterwards upon the history of Mecklenburg, with which the baron is perfectly acquainted. He was so polite as to shew me his library, which, among other subjects, contained a very large number of printed and manuscript tracts relating to the history of this country. The printed books of value I had already seen ; but for the sight of some manuscripts, and the use he has allowed me to make of them, I must acknowledge my obligations. The whole of his conversation was entertaining and instructive ; and I had great reason to be pleased with

with my journey. But our satisfaction was interrupted by the baron's complaining of a noise and pain in his ear, which gave him great uneasiness. His father, he said, died of an apoplexy, and he apprehended that he should meet with the same fate. We did all we could to keep up his spirits, but in vain; and I had like to make things worse, by innocently asking him a question, which he took in a wrong sense. I thought bleeding would be good for him, and therefore asked him whether there was never a barber in the village. You must know that barbers in this country are the only surgeons, as they were formerly in England; and I meant no more than to know whether there was a surgeon on the spot to bleed him; but the old gentleman, conscious of his long beard, apprehended I meant, whether there was never a barber to shave him. This made him blush, and he answered in a very low tone, that there was no such person in the village. I endeavoured to set him right, but all to no purpose; he continued very low-spirited, which M. Oertz and I perceiving, thought proper to decamp; though we had intended, if this accident had not happened, to stay there all night. After returning the baron and his lady thanks for their great civility, we set off for New Strelitz, and arrived there by supper-time. M. Oertz and I spent the remainder of the evening at my lodging,

lodging, where we made many reflections on the day's adventure. The next morning, at breakfast, I made a report of my journey to Baron Dewitz, who was highly diverted with my question about the barber, and at dinner told it to the duke, who laughed very heartily.

A few days after, I had an invitation from the superintendant, M. Masch, to go with him to the village of Dewitz, where he was to ordain a young priest, lately presented to that living. I mentioned it to the duke and to baron Dewitz, who approved of the proposal, as I should have an opportunity of seeing a pleasant part of Mecklenburg, and the manner of ordaining priests in the Lutheran religion. The Baron himself was also to be there, on account of his being *compatronus* of that church, or parish, in conjunction with baron Gentzkow, who is lord of the manor of Dewitz. It is a common thing in this country, that manors which bear the name of certain families, shall belong to families of another name. Perhaps it has been owing to the change of property, by purchase, or intermarriage. Thus the manor of Dewitz belongs to baron Gentzkow; and the manor of Gentzkow is the property of baron Barleben, father of madam de Dewitz.

The superintendant and I set out from New Strelitz, on a Saturday morning, in a very handsome coach, with four good horses, belonging to baron Gentzkow. The weather continued

tinued very fine, as it has done ever since I have been in this country. By eleven o'clock we came to a pleasant village called Westien, two miles from Strelitz. The country round it is very good, and every thing wears the appearance of plenty. The village and estate belong to the duke of Strelitz, who purchased it lately of the family of Peccatel. The superintendent told me, that this purchase was strongly opposed by the noblesse of the country, from a jealousy of the duke's growing power; and that even the marshal of the court, Baron Zesterfleth, had been against it; but that it was determined upon by the advice of M. Seip, who made use of the superintendent's influence to persuade the late duchess, his serene highness's mother, to come into that measure. The village of Westien is prettily built, and has a new chapel for the inhabitants, with a handsome house for the steward. From Westien we came to the village of Blumenholtz, and thence to Ufsadel, a hamlet belonging to baron Bredow, and about six miles from Strelitz. Here we were upon a high ground, and had a fine prospect of the Tollen lake, and of the village of Prilwitz, the seat of baron Bredow. As we passed by a heap of stones on a hill to the right, the superintendent observed to me, that he apprehended that spot to have been the site of the ancient city of Rhetre. From thence we proceeded to Nemerow, a pleasant village, which I passed through

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through in my way from New Brandenburg to Strelitz. The superintendant had some bread with him, and a bottle of wine, which we eat and drank by the way ; after which he smoked a pipe in the coach, for he constantly carried a tinder box about him to light his pipe. By three o'clock, we arrived at Stargard, and alighted at the Rev. M. Gentzmer's, præpositus or rector of that parish. I have given you some account, in a former letter, of the rev. M. Gentzmer, and mentioned to you that he had been præceptor to her majesty, and the princes her brothers. He was born at a place called Wel-sickendorff, in the marck of Brandenburg: though fifty-two years of age, he is married to a very young gentlewoman, daughter of M. Siemsen, equerry to the duke, and has three or four children. His chief study has been natural philosophy, in which he is eminent, particularly in what regards lithography and fossils. Of these he has a very fine collection, superior, perhaps, to that of any private person in the whole country. There is not a better natured man living, always good humoured, and even facetious in company.

Our reception was most hospitable and polite ; we had a genteel dinner, good wine, and a hearty welcome. Mrs. Gentzmer is not only agreeable in her behaviour, but handsome in her person. The parsonage-house be-

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ing near the church-yard, we went, after dinner, to see a bell-founder melting down the old metal found in the rubbish of the church, which was burnt down, together with the greatest part of the town, the beginning of July, 1758. The fire happened at nine of the morning, when most of the inhabitants were gone to a fair in New Brandenburg. The furnace was very well constructed; and the bell-founder, who was come from Berlin, seemed to understand his business perfectly well. The walls of the church were standing, but the inside had been intirely consumed.

Stargard gives its name to the circle belonging to the duke of Strelitz: and is a Venedic word, which signifies an old town. It is indeed a place of great antiquity, and was formerly the capital of a duchy. The district belonging to it was once subject to the margraves of Brandenburg, but came by marriage to the house of Mecklenburg. The town is small, and that part which escaped the late fire is but indifferently built. On the ruins of the other part, new houses have been erected, which make a pretty good appearance; so that it seems like many other towns, to have arisen more beautiful out of its ashes.

Above the town is an old ducal palace, seated on a very high hill, which commands an extensive prospect. Joining to the palace is a lofty
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tower,

tower, formerly a considerable fortress. The situation of this place on such an eminence, occasioned the following distich :

*Turrigeras inter celsisque in montibus arces
Extulit antiquum Stargaris alta caput.*

Here the dukes of Mecklenburg Stargard, a collateral branch, now extinct, used to reside in former times; but having no spring on the top, the castle has been deserted by the princes of this family, and is now going to ruin.

After viewing the town, we went up the hill, which is very steep, to see the castle, and were agreeably surpris'd to find baron Dewitz and his lady. They had dined with M. de Gaffertsheim, lord of the manor of Nedemin, who resides there in quality of governor. This is a tall portly gentleman, of a fair complexion, and pretty much marked with the small-pox. The baron was going to his seat at a neighbouring village called Kolpin, where he has a good estate; and intended to be the next morning at Dewitz, to assist at the ceremony of the ordination. We were both pleas'd at this accidental interview, and, after drinking coffee, he and his lady took a turn with me round the walls of the castle, to enjoy the prospect of a well cultivated country. As they had a good way to go that evening,

remarks, which I thought worth preserving.

The belemnites, he said, are stones of a conical shape, or rather petrified sea-worms, called *holothurici*, and frequently found in these parts. On being broke, the spina may be distinguished in the middle, with the flesh extending in *striæ* to the circumference. They are of three different colours, yellow, brown, and black: of the yellow, some are transparent, and border on white, and in transparency and electricity come very near amber, attracting like substances, as leaves, &c. All of them, when rubbed, emit a smell like the *marmor suillum*, and other animal petrefactions. The principal of their constituent parts are a calcareous earth, and a volatile alkali. It is of sovereign use in the cure of many disorders; and that kind is the best for medical purposes which has the most pungent smell, as containing most volatile salt. Its medical virtues are the following:

It is in high commendation for the gravel in the kidneys. But it is used chiefly in curing the disorders of horses.

1. Pulverized belemnites are good for disorders in the eyes of horses.

2. To a horse which is beginning to have the glanders, give in the morning fasting, half an ounce of pulverized belemnites in fresh spring water; continue this four days, and it will get the better of the disorder.

3. In case of a constipation, give a whole ounce in a pint of good vinegar. This will operate strongly on the beast; but after repeating it for some days, the good effects will declare themselves.

4. In a strangury, there is no better remedy than an ounce of the same powder.

5. An ounce of pulverised belemnite mixed up with water, is an excellent remedy for the cholic; likewise in cases where the proper nature of the distemper cannot be ascertained, the belemnite powder has often been used with great success.

Another no small recommendation of the belemnite is, that in several disorders of horses it operates as an excellent diuretic, and withal is a very cheap medicine.

We all acknowledged ourselves greatly obliged to M. Gentzmer for these discoveries, which were such at least to me; but as it grew late, this gentleman was obliged to return to town, and the superintendant and I withdrew to our apartments. Before he went to bed, he filled another pipe, and then walked about the room, ruminating on the sermon he was to preach the next day at the ordination. This, he told me, is his usual way of composing; he seldom commits any thing to paper, but meditates over his pipe, and has his discourse by heart the next morning. He has certainly a prodigious memory.

mory. I sat with him about a quarter of an hour, and then left him to his meditations.

We rose early the next morning, and after taking leave of M. Gaffertshiem, went down to town, and breakfasted with M. Gentzmer. The weather being fine, it was delightful travelling. We set out from Stargard on Sunday morning, at half an hour after ten, and a little after eleven we reached the village of Dewitz. The country all the way is fruitful: most of it is ploughed land, interspersed with a few thickets. The village of Dewitz is small, and contains nothing worth notice, except baron Gentzkow's house and farm. The superintendant introduced me to the baron, who received me very politely, and spoke pretty good English, for which he is indebted intirely to his own application, having never been in England. He is a short gentleman, of a very good countenance, and fair complexion. He is younger brother to baron Gentzkow at Strelitz, and gentleman of the bed-chamber to the duke. The house is commodious, but not handsome; the barns, however, for the horned cattle, are the largest and best I ever saw, and really struck me with surprize. Another thing that surprized me was to see my friend captain Anstruther there, together with captain Plesse, having not heard of their intention to make this tour.

It seems they had come to this resolution the evening before, and set out that very morning at five, in order to be present at the ordination. After coffee, we went out to behold a sad spectacle viz. the poor cattle in the barns, the greatest part of which we found dead, and others expiring, to the great and inexpressible concern of the baron. His loss on this occasion is computed at 4000 rixdollars. It is amazing what a number of cattle the gentlemen have in this country, how clean and neat they are kept, and how handsome and commodious their stalls. The melancholy sight cast a damp upon all our spirits; and the baron was so dejected, that we sympathised with him on so dismal an occasion.

About eleven o'clock, baron Dewitz and his lady came from Kolpin, and after a few compliments we all set out for the parish-church. It is a handsome building, with a commodious gallery for the baron and his family. The service was very long, I really believe it lasted three hours. The superintendant was assisted by M. Gentzmer, and another clergyman. We had two sermons; the first preached by M. Gentzmer; the second by the superintendant, which more properly was an exhortation to the new priest, directing him in the discharge of his duty. Both were excellent discourses. The ordination was

was made by the imposition of hands, the superintendant and the other two clergymen performing that ceremony all three at the same time. The new priest's name was Seidel; the former parson had been set aside for some fault found in his conduct; but they allowed him 100 dollars a year. The weather was excessive cold; and as I was not guarded against it by my dress, I quivered in such a manner, that captain Anstruther kindly taking pity on me, made me put on his furred nightgown.

The ceremony being over, we returned to baron Gentzkow's, where I was very glad to get into a warm room. This was also the case of baron Dewitz, who happened to be incommoded with an ugly cold. We sat down to dinner fourteen in company, among whom was major Oertz, a Prussian officer, with his two sons. The major has an estate in the neighbourhood, and was there upon a visit. Baron Gentzkow had provided a handsome entertainment for his company, and did all he could to put us in spirits; but he wanted some himself and it is impossible for company to be cheerful, unless the master of the house sets the example. Our conversation turned chiefly on the dreadful distemper, which was making such havoc in Mecklenburg. Some talked of the causes of it, and assigned it to noxious

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herbs,

herbs, which the cattle feed upon in different pasturages. Others imputed it to a pestilential air, similar to that which infects the human species. Others affirmed, from the cutting up of many beasts which died of the distemper, that the cause of it appeared to be a venomous and corrosive matter, gathering in the stomach or bowels, which eat through the very intestines, and likewise occasioned inflammations in the body. These disquisitions were of very little use or comfort to the poor gentleman, who had lost all his cattle; and as it began to grow late, we all thought of taking our leave of him. The baron and his lady set out for Kolpin; captain Anstruther and captain Plesse went to pay a visit to baron Bredow, at Prilwitz, where they intended to stay all night; and the superintendant, M. Gentzmer, and I, resolved to return to Stargard. Baron Gentzkow, indeed, pressed us very kindly to accept of beds; but we agreed among ourselves, that it would be better by far to pass our evening cheerfully at Stargard, than to tarry any longer in a house of sorrow.

We therefore set out from Dewitz about six in the evening, and returned by the same road to Stargard. Mrs. Gentzmer gave us a cordial reception, being agreeably disappointed at our coming, for she did not expect us that night. She got us a good supper, and we spent our time very cheerfully. M. Gaffertshiem came down
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from the castle to see us. Before and after supper, we employed ourselves chiefly in viewing M. Gentzmer's museum. Here he displayed an amazing variety of natural rarities, especially in the article of fossils; and, though we sat up till one, he had not exhibited above one half of his treasure. The day following we returned to it again, and when we had gone through the whole, he shewed us a collection of excellent prints. His library is very well stocked with books of divinity and natural philosophy. Among other things, I was pleased with the sight of the New Testament in the Syriac language, published in 1555, by John Alle Widman Stadius, chancellor of Vienna. The copy belonged to the celebrated Melancthon, in whose hand-writing are a few lines mentioning this book to have been presented to him *a reverendo viro Jacobo Rungio*. But the greatest curiosity was the New Testament in Greek, printed at Hagenau, in 1521, by Anselmus Badensis. This was the celebrated Luther's own copy, in whose hand-writing are the following pious verses, written on a blank page, in 1542 :

In

*In tenebris nostræ et densa caligine mentis,
 Cum nihil est toto pectore consilii,
 Turbati erigimur, Deus, ad te lumina cordis,
 Nostra tuamque fides solius orat opem,
 Tu rege consiliis ætus pater optime nostros,
 Nostrum opus ut laudi serviat omne tuæ.*

After finishing our survey of our good host's rarities, we took our leave of him and his lady, who, as the weather was very cold, insisted on our drinking a cordial upon our going into the coach. M. Gentzmer was very merry on the occasion, and said it was his custom every morning to drink a little *crambambuli*, a jocular name for a dram. We set out for Strelitz about eleven; and when we came to the hill over-against Prilwitz, the weather being very fine, the superintendant proposed walking a little way, and lighting a fresh pipe. There cannot be a more chearful and agreeable gentleman in the world than Mr. Masch; so that you may judge how happy I have been in his company. Among other topics of conversation, we fell upon dreams; but I was surprized to find that so learned and sensible a man should believe there was any such thing as divination by the phantasms of sleep.

Dreams, he said, are sent from above, and philosophers in all ages have looked upon them

as a medium or channel of divination. Pythagoras, according to Porphyry, made a particular profession of interpreting dreams; an art which he had learned among the Egyptians and Chaldeans. Socrates foresaw, from a dream, that he was to die in three days, as may be seen in Diogenes Laertius. Plato and Xenophon, his disciples, shew the credit they give to dreams, by relating them often, and taking notice of their being verified. The stoics were constantly of opinion that dreams come from the immortal gods, to enlighten us in regard to future transactions. There are many instances in scripture, of prediction by dreams, such as those of Joseph, Daniel, &c. But to come to the point, the superintendant himself has had several dreams which were exactly verified; particularly one with regard to his father; a second concerning the present duke of Strelitz; a third about a contest between marshal Zesterfleth and another person at court, which he foresaw in a dream, together with the manner of reconciling them; a fourth with respect to a clergyman who was to succeed to a certain living; he saw him in a dream the first time, and knew him afterwards to be the very identical person.

I took upon me, notwithstanding these assertions, to combat the superintendant's opinion. It is not to be denied but there were formerly dreams

dreams sent from God, as appears by the instances mentioned in scripture; but those instances were very rare, and attended with such circumstances, as prevented any possibility of being mistaken; and properly amounted to a supernatural inspiration. These inspirations are no more; and I do not believe the superintendant himself pretends to be inspired. Therefore, considering dreams in a natural light, they depend on the temperament and humours of body, on the quality and quantity of meat and drink, and on other qualities quite foreign from any knowledge of futurity. But to come to some proof: were dreams sent from above, they would, in all probability, be bestowed on the wise and the virtuous only, whereas they indifferently happen to all. Besides, they would happen to the human species only; but it seems they are incidental to brutes. Again, if the Deity were pleased to give us an insight into futurity, would it not be more reasonable to imagine he would do it by a clear and evident vision, than by such an enigmatical and intricate channel as that of dreams? These were the arguments of the Lyceum against divination by dreams; arguments not answered by the reveries of other philosophers. But another great objection arises from the manner of interpreting dreams, about which there are no certain rules. Some are for interpreting them by analogy; that is,
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by the relation between things dreamt of, and the event which is to happen. Thus, when Cefar was in Spain, he dreamt that he was committing incest with his mother; and the manner of explaining it was, that he should be master of the whole earth, the common parent of mankind. Others maintain that dreams ought to be explained in quite an opposite sense to that in which they appear; thus, if you dream of death or riches, you are to draw a sure inference of life and poverty. This diversity of opinions shews the nullity of the thing. Is it likely that if the Deity wanted to acquaint us with future events by dreams, there would be occasion for interpreters, who are not agreed about their manner of explaining? We should laugh, said Cicero, if the Carthaginians and Spaniards were to speak before the Roman senate without an interpreter; and yet we render the gods equally ridiculous, when we pretend they reveal themselves to us in such clouds of obscurity. *Explodatur hæc quoque somniorum divinatio pariter cum cæteris. Nam ut vere loquamur, superstitio fusa per gentes oppressit omnium fere animos, atque hominum imbecillitatem occupavit.* With regard to some dreams that proved true in the event, it is not at all surprizing this should be the case out of an infinite number. Suppose a blind man were to shoot off a thousand arrows, is it impossible but one out of so many will hit the mark?

mark? There are men of some complexions, whose imagination in the night is disturbed with such a multitude of fumes and vapours, that one or other may happen to raise an idea of some future event. But as people take notice only of these on account of their singularity, the others are neglected and forgotten; and what is merely the effect of chance, they vainly or superstitiously attribute to the Deity.

This conversation lasted till we got to Strelitz, which was after two, and being too late to go to court, I dined with the superintendant. The evening I gave an account of my expedition to the duke, who was greatly pleased with it. The next morning I breakfasted with baron Dewitz, who was come from Kolpin, but had left his lady for a few days at her father's, baron Bardeleben, at Gentzkow. Upon my return to my lodging, I was agreeably surprized to find M. Pistorius, who was come from New Brandenburg to meet M. Buckholtz, the historian, at Old Strelitz, and desired the favour of my company. I mentioned to you before, that M. Buckholtz had undertaken this journey on purpose to see me. He is rector of Lichen, a small town in the marquisate of Brandenburg. I was pleased with the news, and with the good nature of my worthy friend M. Pistorius, who had been at all this trouble on my account. Captain Anstruther

ther and captain Graham happening to come in at that very time, we agreed to walk together to Old Strelitz. These two gentlemen did not stay long with us, but turned back, intending to dine at court ; but M. Pistorius and I went to M. Buckholtz's brother, who is master of the *gymnasium*, or public school.

We found M. Buckholtz arrived, and I was introduced to him by M. Pistorius. He is a short, thick-set gentleman, of a swarthy complexion, and unfortunately has lost an eye. I mentioned to you before, that his abridgement of the history of Mecklenburg is a very pretty performance ; and that he has had the thanks of the present king of Prussia, in that prince's own hand-writing, for the History of the electorate of Brandenburg. After compliments were over we sat down to dinner, and I may truly affirm that we had a *convivium philosophicum*. Between two such gentlemen as M. Pistorius, and M. Buckholtz, I could not but greatly improve. An infinite number of questions were started concerning the history of Mecklenburg, and the gentlemen removed several difficulties entirely to my satisfaction. After this very entertaining conversation, we took a turn about the town, and from thence adjourned to M. Pistorius's lodging : this was at a handsome house belonging to madam Winnemer, where the good syndic entertained us with an excellent supper, and

and plenty of champagne. Burgomaster Tarnatz was of the party, and insisted on my taking a bed at his house. It was late before we broke up, and I accepted of the burgomaster's offer. Early the next morning, I received a visit from M. Pistorius and M. Buckholtz, and we breakfasted all together. Literary conversation being renewed, I found that M. Buckholtz is a poet as well as historian, and has written, at the request of prince Charles, the queen's brother, an epic poem, in blank verse, intitled *Pribislaus*, in imitation of the famous Klopstock. He ingenuously told me, that this poem had been severely censured by that great critic, my friend M. Reinhard; *Vapulavi sub ejus ferula*, were his words, at the same time laughing very heartily. He mentioned to me also, that he had written a German poem on the death of our Queen's mother, which he would send me the first opportunity. But as he was obliged to return that forenoon to Lichen, and M. Pistorius to New Brandenburg, we parted with regret, after many protestations of friendship.

I walked back to Strelitz, where I arrived in time to dine at court. I gave an account to his highness, and to baron Dewitz, of the particulars of the interview. The afternoon I spent in accompanying the captains Anstruther and Graham in several visits, and, among others, to M. Scheven, who produced his store of choice wines.

wines. I have given you this gentleman's character; so that you need not be surprised when I assure you it was with difficulty we could make our escape from him. That evening there was a ball, when the court appeared in its usual chearfulness and gaiety.

A few days after, I received a letter from M. Buckholtz, with a manuscript copy of the German poem which he had promised me, on the death of the late duchess, her present majesty's mother. The poem being in German, a language you do not understand, it would be idle to send it you; but his letter to me is so very polite, that I cannot resist the temptation of giving you a transcript of it.

Viro morum comitate, doctrinæque præstantia excellentissimo, Dn. Thomæ Nugent, D. I.

S. P.

Samuel Buckholtz.

Festos inter solennesque referendus erit mihi jucundissimus ille dierum, quo tecum, tanto viro, Strelitzii convenire contigit. Adhuc plena mens est gaudio, vidisse nosseque Nugentum, Pistoriumque, rerum Megapolitanarum indagatores diligentissimos, scriptoresque celeberrimos, et illum quidem eo majorem, quanto majoris molis aggressus sit opus, peregrinus in isto campo, prædomestico. Ast non tu pateris exercere modestiam

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tuam

tuam laudibus : non ergo in faciem tibi cantabo merita tua post te canenda. Solum confiteri liceat, quanta perfusus sim admiratione indolis tuæ Britannicæ admodum superque generosæ ; vidi in te virtutem maxime ingenuam, totam veræ amicitiae factam. Primus, quem vidi, inter Anglos, prejudicium maxime honorabile nationis menti intulisti meæ. Solum favorem tuum expectanti, quem venerabilem satis putarem fortunam, totus eras, venerabiliorque fautore, amicus, et ille quasi jam multorum annorum. Felix ego nimium, felixque magis, ut possit tota circum vicinia sibi fingere, qui descendere potuerit virtus tanta extranea ad virum nostræ gentis, minoris dignitatis, ut quis in illum attendat. Gratum in me gaudium eo magis excedit cancellos vulgares, cum talia vulgus ignoret æstimare. Pistorius noster novit ; Pistorio te semper prædicabo. Et optarim ex animo, favori tuo inæstimabili, aut si mavis, amicitiae tuæ generosissimæ per ævum esse commendatus. O vir maxime, ne transeas quæso mare, nisi memoriam quandam commilitonis tui Germani, quamvis minoris dignitatis, famæque et meriti, tecum trahendo. Et sic omnia bonorum omnium, quos vidisti, vota te comitentur et impleantur. Tuque, o

Navis, quæ tibi creditum

Debes historicum, finibus Anglicis

Reddas incolumem, precor,

ne magna nos fallat illa expectatio gloriosæ consummationis operis Nugentini.

Quod

Quod reliquum est, specimen illud hic habes conaminiis poetici, de quo tibi narravi. Historicum prode ubique aliqualem, et forsan indigeret commentariis, quibusdam in locis. An autem feliciter satis vestigia Miltoni, sive Klopstockii secutus sim, ipse judicabis. Non mihi tantam arrogo laudem, alioquin laurea non avidus, licet olim persuadere mihi passus sim principem serenissimum Carolum, fratrem reginae tuae, ut epice canerem Pribislaum. Cecini, tuba tamen non Miltoniana, sed rauciori, et rhytmis tunc minus grata, quia Klopstockius regnabat apud Germanos poetas. Jam rhythmi apud nos civitati sunt restituti, mutilato Klopstockii imperio parte potestatis, et æquo jure rursum utuntur cum æmulis. At, nefas fatigare te garulitate ejusmodi; vetant leges, quas favor tuus ponit. Peccavi; sed idem tuus favor et amicitia didicit ignoscere. Verbum non amplius addam. Vale. Lichenæ Ucarorum. ix. Cal. Novembr. M.DCC.LXVI.

This letter, I think, is a strong specimen of the politeness of the Germans; I give it to you as such, far from imagining myself intitled to the high compliments that gentleman is pleased to bestow on me. I believe you are pretty well tired with my excursions at present; I shall therefore allow you some time to rest, and reserve the remainder for the next post. The weather, though still fine, is growing cold; and as winter is coming on apace, I begin to think of returning to England, where I intend

to give you a full account of many things by word of mouth, which cannot so well be committed to writing. Adieu, my dear friend, I hope to see you soon, and to assure you *tete a tete* that

I am,

most sincerely,

Dear Sir, yours, &c.

L E T-



L E T T E R XVII.

Strelitz, November 8, 1766.

DEAR SIR,

SOON after my interview with the very learned gentlemen, M. Buckholtz, and M. Pistorius, at Old Strelitz, I was invited by baron Bredow, to come and see him at his seat in Prilwitz. I had heard a good deal of the pleasantness of the situation, and moreover been told that I should there behold the ruins of an ancient temple, dedicated to the heathen god Rhadegastus. This excited my curiosity, and upon my mentioning it to Baron Dewitz, he approved, by all means, of my going. I set out, after dinner, on a Saturday, along with captain Pleffe. The first part of the road, is very sandy; we went through Westien, Blumholtz, and Ufadel, and in an hour and a half, reached Prilwitz. The distance is about eight miles. Prilwitz is a very pretty village, pleasantly situated at the extremity of the Tollen lake. The prospect from thence is most charming, a ridge

N 3 . of

of fine hills rising on the right and left, and the lake extending to the city of New Brandenburg, which terminates the landscape. We waited upon the baron, and found him over his bottle, with a fine old gentleman, Major Fabianus of Hohen Zeric, and a lawyer, the same whom I had seen before at New Brandenburg, who drinks his bottle very freely, but can talk of nothing except appeals and *gravamina*. The baron, who, as I mentioned to you before, had been one of the deputies of the noblesse, to congratulate the duke on the birth of the princess of England, received me with open arms, and presented me to his lady. Never did I see such a contrast between man and wife; the former of a Patagonian stature, and the latter almost a pigmy. The baron is one of the chearfullest men living, generous and hospitable, fond of good cheer and convivial merriment. He had lost all his cattle by the mortality three times successively, yet it never affected his mind, and he always preserved his usual hilarity. His lady makes up in breeding and good sense the deficiency of her size, and her countenance is very agreeable. She speaks French fluently, and is possessed of several other accomplishments, among which I may particularly mention the sweetness of her temper. Indeed the German ladies in general are the best tempered in the whole world, the most

most complaisant and even obsequious, to their husbands. We made but few compliments, as the baron and I were already acquainted; the company went away by dark, even captain Plesse was obliged to go, and promised to come for me the next day. I spent the evening very agreeably with the baron and his lady. The house is large and commodious, but not handsome, being an ancient building. The furniture, however, is very good, and contrived in an elegant taste.

The next morning after breakfast, the baron proposed taking a walk up the neighbouring mount, in order to see the famous ruins. It was a fine clear frost, so that we had a charming view of the Tollen lake, and the hanging woods on the side of the hills. The mount being very steep, I was tired in gaining the summit. The baron, and many others of this country, suppose that the ancient city of Rhetre stood on the same spot as the village of Prilwitz, and that the temple of Rhadegastus had been erected on this mount. From what I could observe, both at the bottom and on the sides of the hill, there did not seem to be the least vestige of a temple; but the ditches and ruins of walls and fortifications, plainly indicated the remains of an ancient castle. Such castles or noblemen's seats were very common in the middle ages; and you may remember to have read of moated castles in

England in former ages. I told the baron my mind, and he seemed greatly disappointed, for he had strongly pre-conceived that it had been a temple, and had some notion of digging there, in order to discover hidden treasure ; only he was afraid, he said, the duke, as lord paramount, would come in for share of it. The whole mistake about this temple of Rhadegastus is owing to the notion they have here, that this was the site of the ancient city of Rhetre, famous for the worship of that heathen deity. But it appears from Adam of Bremen, and Helmoldus, that this could not be ; for, according to those ancient historians, Rhetre was on all sides surrounded by a deep lake, *undique lacu profundo inclusa*, which would not have been the case, had that city been situated on this spot. Besides, those writers mention that Rhetre was the capital of the Redarii ; and it is known that these were a tribe of the Slavi, inhabiting the Ucker Marck, in the electorate of Brandenburg. The famous city of Rhetre, the seat of idolatry, and especially of the worship of Radegastus, was taken and utterly destroyed by the emperor Otho the Great, and Gerô, margrave of Brandenburg, about the year 960 *.

After I had fully surveyed these pretended ruins of a temple, I descended the hill along

* See Masius, *Antiquitates Mecklenburgenses*.

with the baron, to view his stables and garden. The stables are very large and convenient, well stocked with horses, which the baron uses chiefly in husbandry. The garden is spacious, and handsomely laid out. About eleven we went to church, with madam de Bredow, and heard a good sermon. The church itself is very small, and contains nothing remarkable, except the numerous inscriptions on the tombstones, by which I found, that this estate had passed, in no great length of time, through a vast number of families. We expected captain Plesse to dinner, but were disappointed. Towards evening, one of the duke's chaises came to bring me back to Strelitz, and the servant made an apology for captain Plesse's not coming, on account of his being indisposed. I took leave of Baron Bredow and his lady, after returning them many thanks for their great civility, and about six I got back to Strelitz. It was a ball night, and I was agreeably surprized to find at the assembly my friend baron Jasmund's two sons, who were just returned from Strasburg. They are handsome young gentlemen, tall in stature, and most accomplished in their manners. We had a good deal of chat together, and I found they lodged, as well as I, at burgomaster Strubing's. Baron Dewitz came up to me, and asked me whether I did not think the elder M. Jasmund very like the hon. Charles Yorke; I really think the baron is right, and that

that there cannot be a stronger resemblance. I gave an account of my tour that evening to the duke, who could not help laughing, when I told him that baron Bredow did not care to dig in the mount, lest his highness should come in for share of the treasure. The two Jasmunds and I went home in the same coach, and I sat with them above an hour at our inn, where I was agreeably entertained with their polite and sensible conversation. They have read a great deal, and take a particular delight in studying the history and constitution of England.

The day following was Strelitz fair, at which the duke intended to be present. His highness proposed I should also go, and we set out immediately after dinner. The duke intending to shoot pheasants by the way, took the captains Norman, Plesse, and Schmalensee, with him in the same coach, and counsellor Reinhard and I followed in a chariot. We stopped to see the pheasant-walk, about a mile from New Strelitz, and I own it gave me singular pleasure. It is a very large inclosure, walled round like a park, and extremely well stocked with pheasants. After we had taken a turn or two, we proceeded on our journey: about half a mile farther the duke alighted, and stepped a little out of the road, attended by the officers, to amuse himself with shooting. Counsellor Rein-

Reinhard and I looked on, neither of us being sportsmen. In about an hour the duke got into his coach again, and proceeded to Old Strelitz. Burgomaster Tangatz came to wait upon his highness, and invited him to his habitation; but the duke thought proper to set up at the post-house. We then walked about the town, no other servants attending his highness than two hussars. There was a very good show of business, the streets prodigiously crowded, and wares of all sorts exposed as in England. But I saw no drunkenness nor riot; every thing seemed to be conducted with the greatest decorum. After his highness had gratified his curiosity, he returned to the post-house, where coffee was prepared, the duke drinking nothing strong between meals. As soon as we had finished, we set out upon our return, and got to New Strelitz by dusk. I alighted at M. Reinhard's, where I spent the best part of the evening in literary conversation. I find he does not understand English enough to relish our poetry, for he speaks of it with some flight, and he even holds the immortal Shakespear in contempt. This is also the case of the celebrated M. Voltaire, who, through want of a competent knowledge of the English language, shews himself an inadequate judge of the excellence of that inimitable poet. M. Reinhard has other prejudices (for who is without some?) particularly he

favours

favours the Jews, and considers them as useful to trade; though the shop-keepers throughout the country complain they have no business because of the Jewish pedlars, who hawk all sorts of commodities, woollen cloths, silks, stuffs, stockings, &c. in every part of the duke's dominions. I do not deny but opulent Jews, men of substance and understanding, may be of service in promoting foreign commerce; but the pedlars and hawkers of that religion, rather hurt the fair trader. This is also the opinion of baron Dewitz; yet the contributions raised on the Jews are so considerable, and so beneficial to the prince, that it is not thought prudent to make any alteration with regard to those people, and things are likely to run some time in the old channel.

The next morning I had an invitation from madam Barnewitz, to see her museum, where I had an opportunity of admiring a well-chosen collection of natural curiosities. This was begun by her late husband, and the lady herself has since improved it. She has also an excellent collection of Greek and Roman medals, in good conservation, with a variety of fine Danish and Swedish coins. One of the greatest curiosities I beheld at this lady's was her grand-daughter, a child only in her eleventh year; but for ingenuity, solidity, and good sense, a real phenomenon,

I had

I had spoken a few days before to baron Dewitz, concerning my departure, and he answered me, that the duke desired me to stay till I had seen Mirow, the place of his and our queen's nativity: that his highness intended to go thither very shortly, and would take me with him. The opportunity now offered, for the duke had received an account from his brothers, the princes Charles and Ernest, that they intended shortly to pay him a visit, and he resolved to go and meet them at Mirow. At the same time captain Plesse, senior, and the two British officers, Anstruther and Graham, were for returning to Brunswick, and the duke invited them to be of the party, Mirow being in their way to that city.

The duke set out for Mirow along with the two British captains; and I was to follow the next day, in company with captain Plesse. I spent the greater part of the forenoon, after the duke was gone, with baron Dewitz, and talked over matters relative to my departure for England. We dined at court, but the duke being absent, and the princess not coming down to dinner, there was but very little company. In the afternoon, I made several visits, among others to madam Kosboth, mademoiselle Rauchbar, and mademoiselle Dewitz. There I saw madam Pitcan, an old gentlewoman, who had been French mistress to the queen, and all the ducal family.

Unfor-

Unfortunately she is become blind, but in return for her long services, the duke is so good as to give her an apartment and her table in the palace. When she talks of the queen, she is in raptures, so great an affection does she retain for our amiable sovereign. But, indeed, her majesty's name is adored here by all ranks of people, who were constant witnesses of her princely virtues. From the castle, I went to drink tea at captain Norman's, and saw madam Norman for the first time after her lying-in. She had been only nine days brought to bed, yet was up to receive company. Such is the difference of customs with regard to this point of decorum among the fair sex. I have already given you an account of this lady, and her sister, madam Oertz, so that I have nothing here to add, as nature has nothing more to bestow, towards heightening the portrait. There was a good deal of company, we drank tea and punch, and played at cards till seven; then we adjourned to baron Oertz's, where we supped and spent the evening. Of madam Oertz I have already taken notice, but I never mentioned his sister, miss Oertz; she is an amiable young lady, very good humoured, and has a most sweet innocent countenance. In short, in such agreeable company I could not but spend the time highly to my satisfaction.

The

The next morning, the 29th of October, after breakfasting with baron Dewitz, he told me he had received a letter from the duke, who desired me to be at Mirow that day, by twelve o'clock. A chariot and fix was ready at the door by ten, when I set off with captain Plesse. It was a clear frosty morning, so that I could have a full view of the country. From New Strelitz to Mirow is about eight or nine miles, the soil for the most part sandy. We passed through two small villages, and exactly by twelve we got to our journey's end. There happened to be a fair that day in town, which occasioned a great conflux of people. As we drove through the market place, I saw captain Anstruther and captain Graham, who told me that the duke was but a little way behind; upon which I alighted with captain Plesse, and we went and paid our respects to his highness. The duke told me he was very glad to see me at the place of his nativity, a place for which he still preserved a particular liking. I thanked his highness, and told him I thought myself happy in beholding the seat where he and our gracious queen drew their first breath. By one o'clock having fauntered a good deal, and seen every thing at the fair, we went to dinner: the same plenty and elegance appeared as at Strelitz; but not near so much ceremony, this being the duke's country-house, where formalities are laid aside. There

are no guards, nor pages, and he is attended only by his lacqueys and valet de chambre. He had a blackmoor boy with him, whom his brother, prince Charles, brought over from England, and who had belonged to Rice the broker that was hanged. The person who bought him at an auction, made a present of him to prince Charles, and the prince gave him to the duke. This boy is very arch, and does a thousand things to divert his highness. The young rogue has forgot his English, and is now quite Germanized; but knows he has got into good quarters. There was a gentleman at table, called the Droffart, or governor of Mirow, who had been in the Prussian service, and was governor of Geldres, when that town surrendered, in the late war, to the French. I was told that he had been ill treated by his Prussian majesty, which occasioned his quitting that prince's service. His name is Raden; he is an elderly man, of a very good aspect, well built, and robust constitution. His lady is a little woman, gay and lively, with some remains of beauty. He has a daughter who is a handsome young lady, and well accomplished. As the duke loves the company of ladies, madam de Raden and her daughter always dine with him, when he is at Mirow.

After dinner, the duke ordered the coaches to be ready, intending to shew us a hunting-seat, not far from thence, known by the name of

of Canow, or Albertine Lust. We got there in about an hour and a half, and I must own I was pleased with the excursion. It is properly a villa, or summer-house, whither the duke's father used to retire in the hunting season. The house is charmingly situated on an eminence, from whence it commands an extensive prospect. From the top of the hill is a gentle declivity, with a handsome garden, at the end of which is a beautiful lake. The garden is kept in good order, but the house is a little out of repair, the duke not being fond of hunting. We made no long stay, but only just enough to take a view of the place, and drove directly back to Mirow, where we arrived a little after sun-set. We drank coffee at the droffart's house, from whence we adjourned to the castle. The evening, till supper-time, was spent at quadrille; the duke was very chearful, having received a letter from the princes his brothers, that they would be there the next day. Captain Anstruther, and captain Graham, proposed setting out that very night, at eleven o'clock, on their return to Brunswick. It seems captain Pleffe's furlough was expired. We went to supper at the usual time, and were very merry till those gentlemen's departure, when a sudden cloud overcast the whole company. The officers took their leave of the duke in the most grateful manner, and his highness was pleased to express the great satisfaction he had received

from their visit. I saw them into the coach, and was sensibly affected at the moment of separation. I lay that night in the very apartment where the duke was born, and the next morning, while I was breakfasting with captain Pleffe, his highness came in, and told us he had received tidings of the princes his brothers, that they were not far off, and he intended to go and meet them. In the mean time he desired captain Pleffe to shew me every thing that was to be seen, in the town and castle of Mirow. The duke then set off, and, when breakfast was over, the captain and I took a turn about the town.

Mirow is a very small town, supposed to have derived its name from the Slavonic, or Venedic word *mir*, signifying *peace*. It was once a commandery of the order of the knights of Malta, belonging to the grand mastership of Sonnenburg, but was secularized, together with the commandery of Nemerow, at the treaty of Westphalia, and assigned to the dukes of Mecklenburg, in order to indemnify those princes for their cession of Wismar to the Swedes. The town is situated on the west side of a handsome lake, in a very pleasant country. In the year 1730, it was burnt down to the ground; but providentially the castle and church were preserved. Since that time the town has been rebuilt, and may be said to be indebted for its present elegance to the late calamity. The houses are
neat,

neat, the streets wide, and the whole uniform. On the right hand is an agreeable alley of lofty trees, which serves for a walk to the inhabitants. At the extremity of the principal street is the ducal castle, or palace. The front is of a noble architecture, well disposed, without any crowding of ornaments. This building is not large, but commodious; and was the residence of the present duke's father, Charles Lewis Frederic, duke of Mecklenburg Mirow, a younger brother of duke Adolphus Frederic III. The apartments are neat, in very good order, and handsomely furnished. Round the castle is a moat, which communicates with the neighbouring lake; and over the moat is a bridge, leading to a pretty garden. Opposite the palace are the offices, all very convenient; and the kitchen, I think, is one of the handsomest I ever beheld. The stables are also neat and commodious. To the left is the brewhouse, the finest in the whole duchy of Mecklenburg; the beer is famous over all the country, and forms a considerable part of the duke's revenue. There is also a very curious distillery, a branch of trade also belonging to the duke. At a small distance stands the old palace, built by Adolphus Frederick II. the present duke's grandfather. In this her present majesty queen Charlotte was born. It is much smaller than the other, and the duke is now pulling it down, in order to rebuild another on the same spot.

Not far far from hence is the parish church, a neat modern structure; here is the vault or burying-place of the princes of the line of Mecklenburg Strelitz.

Captain Plesse and I went all over the town, and left nothing unnoticed, not even the old nursery maid, who had the care of her majesty and the princes her brothers, during their infancy. This is good Mrs. Wildbergen, a fine old dame, who cried with joy in talking of the queen. I was very glad to see a person who had taken so much care of our gracious sovereign; she is strong and hearty, and likely still to live many years. I went afterwards to pay a visit to M. Leithauser, minister of the parish, with whom I had already made acquaintance at New Strelitz. This gentleman is no less esteemed for his unfeigned piety and religion, than for his profound and extensive learning. In polite literature few excel him, being an excellent classical scholar. He has published several pieces of elegant composition, in his native tongue, particularly an elegy on the decease of the late duchess, the queen's mother; and an address to her majesty on her passage through Mirow. As we happened to talk of his serene highness, he assured me that no prince can pay a greater regard to learning, nor give more encouragement to merit. And this, said he, is a natural consequence of his being himself a very good scholar, and often conse-

crating

crating his leisure hours to the belles lettres. He knows what a neighbouring great prince* has observed, that the sciences, so far from debasing, impart a new lustre to even the highest station; and that the great men of antiquity were formed, in the school of letters, to the public offices of the state. M. Leithauser then produced a Latin oration which the duke pronounced before the university of Gripswald, in Swedish Pomerania, when he was chosen rector of that learned body, at the age of fifteen. I mentioned to you once before, that baron Dewitz had favoured me with a copy of this oration, and, as it is not prolix, you will not, I apprehend, be sorry to peruse it.

An ORATION pronounced by his serene Highness the DUKE of MECKLENBURG STRELITZ, on being chosen RECTOR of the University of Gripswald, in 1753.

Meministis, academix hujus prorektor & professores dignissimi, quam grata mihi fuerit conclusorum vestrorum tessera, qua me paucos ante dies civem academicum amice declarabatis. Accipiebam istam eo majori lætitia, quo certius arctissimum mihi cum scientiis artibusque liberalibus vinculum, & cum viris doctis commercium, ita confirmari videbatur. Et eodem ani-

* The king of Prussia.

mo, quo tunc grates meas ordini vestro egi, easdem & nunc persolvo.

Ast novam me obligandi vim hodie additis, quum primum in celebri collegio vestro locum, in eoque præsidis & rectoris præeminentiam, sponte mihi decretam, fidenter desertis; nec minus quidquid vobis carissimum, quidquid sanctissimum, hæc rectoratus insignia, hæc privilegiorum documenta, meis manibus, meæ tutelæ concredit.

Sunt plurima, quæ annales majorum meorum representant, amicitia Pomeranorum monumenta, Megalopoli meæ sacra. Enimvero crediderim, me præ ceteris a provido numine designatum fuisse, in quo amica hujus vicinitatis optima extarent specimina. Summa saltem votorum meorum est, ut verbis jam exprimere possim, quanta me lætitia omnia hæc perfundant, quantaque cupiditate incendar, vicinitatis vinculum, quod ipsa natura necit, reddendi indissolubile.

En, Pomerani, certum, si ita videtur, affectionis meæ pignus! Me ipsum academiae vestræ Pomeranicæ trado, consecro.

Consecro me isti, vobis viri doctissimi ita volentibus, & civem & rectorem. Trado me fiduciæ, quam in bona mea voluntate reposuistis; quam tamen ne ultra ætatem meam, ne ultra præsentem rerum mearum conditionem extendatis, precor. Quo animo primæ inter vos dignitatis splendore radians panegyribus post hac vestris interero, eodem & justum judicio & æquum, te, prorector celeberrime, nec interveniendo in optimis rerum academicarum administrationibus turbare, nec quod in manibus tuis optime collocatum est, iisdem extrahere,

extrahere. Retradò igitur gratus tibi insignia ista, quorum auctoritate & robore suffultus regimine academico sapienter fungeris. Quod mihi reliquum manet & honorificum, opto, ut quam sæpissime boxo academiæ inserviendi ansam mihi præbeat.

Nec absentiam meam in posterum bonam vestræ, viri clarissimi, fiduciæ memoriam extinguere patiar. Nec desinam absens, eruditæ Grypeswaldensium laboribus attentum oculum intendere & animum. Neque vestræ, studiosi amici, probatæ mihi observantiæ, probatæ omnibus & diligentæ & morum elegantæ obliviscar.

Sit celebris hæc academia summo numini commendatissima, ut, moderante salutem ejus rege sapientissimo, augustissimo, promovente vicario ejus & cancellario providissimo, ad majorem indies & fortunæ & gloriæ gradum adscendat; et sic ætatem floreatis meæ deliciæ, professores & cives.

From the subject of literature, a sudden transition was made to that of the mortality of the horned cattle; and Mr. Leithauser observed, that though the distemper had done so much mischief in most parts of the country, the cattle on the duke's demesnes had not suffered much. This he imputed to the precaution his highness had used, in ordering all his stewards to bury the carcases, together with the hides: a regulation which the avarice of others would not permit them to comply with. A gentleman present mentioned a very simple remedy

dy against this distemper, and he assured us that it had such effect in the district of Calbe, that not a single beast died of the distemper. I thought it worth while to write it down, and send it to you. “ Whenever a beast is observed to loath its food, and not to eat as usual, a string, with bunches of fresh plucked onions tied to it, must be put round its neck. These onions attract the venom out of the sick animal, so that the very next day they look as if they had been parboiled. They must be daily replaced with fresh onions, and those taken from the diseased cattle should be carefully put under ground, being certain death to any fowls that should happen to meddle with them. After some days, the beast will void a great deal of slime from its mouth and nostrils, and others have a violent looseness: they likewise are generally taken with a stiffness, and swelling in the legs; all which, however, by continuing the abovementioned use of the onion necklace, gradually abate, till the beast perfectly recovers. It would likewise be proper to hang bunches of onions up and down the cow-house.”

It was now near dinner-time, when we were apprized that the duke, and the princes his brothers, were arrived. Upon which the captain and I returned to the palace, where I was immediately introduced to their serene highnesses, and met with a most gracious reception. Soon after this ceremony was over, the duke
made

made his appearance, and we sat down to dinner: his highness then declared his resolution of going back, that same afternoon, to New Strelitz, on account of his brothers, who were impatient to see the princess their sister. The duke and the two princes were very chearful the whole time of dinner, and asked me a thousand questions, which I answered to the best of my abilities. Soon after dinner, the carriages were ordered, and the two princes went in the same coach with the duke their brother, and captain Plesse and I returned in a chariot. We got to Strelitz about seven o'clock, and found the court all overjoyed upon the arrival of the duke and his two brothers.

Indeed the presence of these two young princes has infused, as it were, new life, into this part of the world. There are balls and assemblies almost every night, and the nobility flock from all the neighbouring parts to pay their respects to their highnesses. They have both been in England, but whether you have had the pleasure of seeing them, I do not remember. Be that as it may, I will endeavour to draw the outlines of their character.

Prince Charles was born in 1741; he is of a middling stature, round faced, wears his own hair, has a lively aspect, black eyes, and his complexion brown. He is perfectly well shaped, with a noble air, and robust constitution. His imagination is lively, his conception quick, joined to solidity

solidity of judgment. Besides his own language, of which he is a perfect master, he speaks French with correctness and ease, and is a pretty good proficient in the English tongue. A good part of his time he applies to manly exercises, and to the study of the military art. He is respected for his virtue and for his candour, and for that noble freedom by which all his words and actions are distinguished. In his religion he is so well grounded and sincere, that I have been told he has declined paying his addresses to a certain princess, alleging for his only reason, that she was tainted with the principles of libertinism. From his good constitution, he is looked upon as the best qualified of all the princely brothers to continue this branch of the serene family.

Prince Ernest was born in 1742. He is middle sized, has an oval face, wears his own hair, is of a delicate form, with large black eyes, and a brown complexion; in short, his features are so regular, and his whole countenance so engaging, that he may be looked upon as a very handsome man. His temper is as engaging as his physiognomy; and he has an aspect of goodness, which wins the hearts of all who have the honour to approach him. His judgment surpasses his years, and his mind is improved with every valuable accomplishment. He speaks French and Italian perfectly, and loves to express himself in the latter. He understands English very well, and would speak it better, as he says himself,

self, had he a little more practice. But his constitution is very infirm, and it has been apprehended lately that he was going into a consumption: on that account, he has been restrained by his physicians from dancing, an exercise, of which he is supremely fond. Still he is always lively and in good spirits, so that it is to be hoped he will overcome this disorder, which has so greatly alarmed the serene family.

Prince George, the duke's younger brother, I have not, as yet, had the honour of seeing; he was born in 1748, and is now upon his travels in Italy, under the conduct of baron Dewitz's brother. To judge from several of his letters to baron Dewitz, he appears to be a prince of a promising genius. His remarks on commerce and agriculture are exceeding fine, and would do honour to the ablest statesman.

I have the pleasure of conversing with these amiable princes every day, and cannot but admire their good sense, sweetness of temper, and engaging condescension. Prince Charles, in particular, being very fond of the history of his family, asks me several questions about my Vandalia, a copy of which he had sent to princess Ulrica, at Schwerin. Some time ago, he engaged M. Buckholtz to write an epic poem, on one of his illustrious ancestors, Pribislaus II. the last king of the Venedi and Obobrites. Sometimes I play at cards with him, and sometimes we enter into literary topics,

pics, and I am always charmed with the pleasure of his conversation.

Tired of the amusements of the court (for every thing tires at last) I sometimes betake myself to my two philosophical friends, the superintendent, and counsellor Reinhard, and never leave them without acknowledging myself much indebted to their instruction. They have been extremely communicative the whole time I have been here, always expressing themselves glad to see me, and procuring me every literary intelligence. Thus the object of my coming to Mecklenburg is pretty well answered; I am greatly improved in my health, have been enabled to rectify some errors in the first part of my history, and to finish the second, by the help of new materials. The weather has continued amazingly fine, but I cannot expect this will last long; winter is approaching; and I have a long journey to make through the worst part of Germany: for I do not chuse to go back, at this dangerous season, by sea; besides, I have some intention of paying my respects, in my way home, to the duke of Mecklenburg Schwerin. At all events, I should be glad to reach Holland before the snows begin to fall, which would render my journey very hazardous, if not impracticable. All these considerations I have laid before baron Dewitz, who is so well convinced of the reasonableness of my apprehensions, that he

has

has spoke to the duke ; and, with his highness's consent, I am to leave this agreeable court, to-morrow morning. And yet I confess I should like to stay here all the winter ; but that cannot be : I must return this year, if possible, to England. If ever I quitted a place with regret, it will be this, where I have formed so many agreeable connexions, and where I have received such civilities, and even such honours, from all ranks. Indeed their civilities have been so great, that I want words to express them, but I shall ever retain them in idea, and death alone shall efface them out of my memory.

I have spent this whole afternoon in making visits and taking my leave of the gentlemen and ladies, with whom I have the honour of being acquainted. As soon as it was dusk, I went to court, and waited on princess Christiana, to pay my last respects to her highness. I was introduced to her apartment by mademoiselle Zeltzer ; and met with a most gracious reception. Her highness talked with me a good while concerning my journey, congratulated me upon the recovery of my health in Mecklenburg, invited me to pay them another visit ; and heartily wished me a prosperous and safe return to England. I then went and played at cards with the ladies, and saw baron Dewitz, who was come to speak with the duke. When he had done with his highness, he called me aside ; and put a purse of louisdores into my hand, telling

ling me it was the duke's pleasure I should accept of that present, as a mark of his approbation of my conduct, and to defray my expences to England. At the same time he desired me to send him my landlord's bill, for that I had nothing at all to pay during my stay at Strelitz. Farther, he told me, that the duke would send a servant and a chaise to conduct me as far as Schwerin, for which also I should be at no expence. I was confounded at so much generosity, which I had no reason or title to expect, and could hardly express my acknowledgments. The baron desired me to breakfast with him in the morning, and that the carriage should be ready at what time I pleased. This said, he went home, and I staid to supper at court. I talked a good deal with prince Charles, who, hearing I intended to return by the way of Hanover, promised to give me two letters of recommendation, one for baron Munchausen, and the other for general Sporcken, both at Hanover; he added, that he would breakfast with me at baron Dewitz's. Supper being over, we chatted a little, as usual, when the ladies came about me, and pressed me to stay a few days longer: but every thing was now settled, and the duke being retired into the presence-chamber, accompanied by his two brothers, I went in to take leave of their serene highnesses. I made my obeisance in the best manner, returned my most sincere

thanks to his serene highness, for all his favours, and recommended myself to his patronage and protection. The duke answered me in the most gracious manner, that he had done nothing but what I deserved, that he should be always glad to hear of my welfare, wished me a safe and prosperous journey, and hoped to have the pleasure of seeing me again at Strelitz. After this I made my bow and retired, when the ladies came about me again, hoping still I intended to put off my journey. But I told them I had taken leave of his highness, and that nothing more remained but to bid adieu to them. This I did with great concern, and after mutual wishes of happiness, I came home to my lodging.

Here I am at present, in the dead silence of the night, when the busy tumult of the world is hushed, retired from court, and from all scenes of grandeur. *J'ai fait un beau songe*, as marshal Saxe said, when he was a-dying. Indeed, my dear friend, life is nothing but a dream; its splendid shows are an empty vision, *fumus et umbra*. You will hear no more of me from Strelitz; my next stage will be at Schwerin, where I have the satisfaction of being strongly recommended, by baron Dewitz, to two of the principal noblemen at that court, the barons de Lutzow and de Zulow, the former privy counsel, and the latter great cup-bearer to the duke. I have heard of a book, intitled

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The art of making one's self happy in dreams; but were I to be possessed of that art, I could not flatter myself with any dream more pleasant than that which has amused my fancy at Strelitz. Adieu, my dear friend, I am almost dreaming over my paper, and but just enough awake to desire the continuance of your friendship, which will ever be most faithfully returned by,

Dear Sir, yours, &c.

LET.



L E T T E R XVIII.

Schwerin, November 13, 1766.

DEAR SIR,

SINCE my departure from Strelitz, I have been for some time in a melancholy mood, a fatality attending poor mortals after exquisite enjoyment. But I assure you it is not the diversions of the court of Strelitz that I regret, for the sameness of these grows tiresome in time; but it is the friendships contracted in that happy spot, which rendered my stay so very agreeable, and the separation so painful. I shall now give you an account of my last scene with baron Dewitz, and of my journey from Strelitz to Schwerin.

I rose early the 7th in the morning, and having got my baggage ready, desired my landlord, M. Strubing, to make out my bill, and send it, according to order, to baron Dewitz. Between eight and nine, I waited on the baron, and soon after had the pleasure of

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seeing

seeing prince Charles. His highness came to breakfast with us, and brought me the letters of recommendation he had promised me the day before. Madam de Dewitz was not very well, yet made her appearance. After breakfast, the prince wished me a good journey; I thanked his highness, and recommended myself to the continuance of his good graces. I staid half an hour longer, during which a great deal of affecting discourse passed between the baron and myself. I then took my leave of him and his good lady, not without tears, thinking it would, in all probability, be the last time I should have the pleasure of seeing so happy, so worthy, and so amiable a couple. The chaise was at the door, and I parted with the baron, about half an hour after ten. I stopped at the superintendant's house, and once more took my leave of him and his good family, when he delivered me a drawing of the palace of Strelitz, which he had undertaken at the duke's desire. I was very glad he had finished it, and shall have the pleasure of shewing it you, when I return to London. M. Masch is an universal genius; a divine, a philosopher, &c. and likewise an excellent draughtsman. After a thousand thanks and embraces, I tore myself away, and bid adieu to Strelitz, exactly at eleven in the forenoon.

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The weather was cold and pinching, being a bleak northerly wind, but very fine over head. The road at first was sandy for about two miles, till I passed by the village of Torwitz, leaving Mirow on the left. By four o'clock, I arrived at the town of Wahren, belonging to the duke of Mecklenburg Schwerin. The distance from Strelitz to Wahren is about twenty miles. On the way I met a gentleman with his servant, on horseback, and though they rode a pretty good pace, they had their pipes all the while in their mouths. I lighted at the post-house, and gave orders for my dinner, and while it was getting ready, took a walk in order to view the place.

Wahren is a small town, pleasantly situated on a beautiful lake. It is supposed to have taken its name from the ancient Varni, or Warini, who, according to some writers, were settled on the banks of the river Varna, near the lakes of Muritz and Calpen. At what time this town was first built, is not known, but it is a place of considerable antiquity. In the year 1671, it was burnt down to the ground, and has not recovered its ancient prosperity. Finding nothing remarkable, I returned to the post-house, and dined. Upon consulting with the postilion, I concluded it would be advisable to travel farther that evening; and therefore set out soon after dinner: passing through a pleasant country, I saw a

great number of large stones, near the road, such as I had observed in several other parts of the duchy of Mecklenburg, and by the common people are supposed to be the remains of the altars, on which the ancient Venedi performed their religious rites. But from the sepulchral urns frequently found in the neighbourhood of these piles, it is more probable that they were places of interment for persons of distinction. The night now began to spread her gloomy veil, when I reached a solitary inn, called Water Krow, and finding it uncomfortable to travel in the dark, I resolved to go no farther till next morning. The inn was crowded with people, going to a fair, which was to be held the day following, at a town called Grubenhagen. I took notice of their eating goose grease, by way of butter, and they all commended it as excellent. I supped upon fish, which was pretty good, and retired to my room. Before I went away, the company extended themselves on straw, in one room, and some of them with pipes in their mouths. This is great carelessness, and should not be suffered; nor do I wonder that fires happen so often in this country.

The next morning I was up pretty early, and after an expeditious breakfast, resumed my journey. The weather was pleasant, and not so cold as the preceding day. After passing by several

villages I came through a wood ten miles long, and arrived by noon at Dobbertin, twenty miles from Wahren. The postilion carried me to a pretty good inn, where I bespoke dinner, and then went to see the famous convent of Lutheran ladies. The village of Dobbertin is situated near a pleasant lake, and contains some good houses. The convent stands upon the lake, and makes a noble appearance. One part of it consists of old buildings, another is a modern structure. The steward of the convent has the whimsical title of captain, with a very handsome house, and a genteel salary. I had a letter to him from Strelitz, in consequence of which, he behaved to me with great civility. He went with me all over the convent, and shewed me several of the ladies apartments, which were neatly furnished. They are thirty-two in number, all dressed in a lay habit, and, as I mentioned to you before, they make no sort of religious vow. In short, these convents are only places of education and retirement for the daughters of the nobility. I saw no young ladies among them; which made good what prince Charles had mentioned to me at Strelitz, when I asked his highness whether there were any antiquities to be seen at Dobbertin? None, said he, except the old ladies. The captain wanted me to stay and dine with him, but I was in a hurry, and thanked him for his hospitality. At my return to the inn, I had reason to be pleased with

my entertainment; the people were civil and obliging, and I do not remember to have met with so good an inn in any village in Mecklenburg. By three o'clock, I got into the chaise again, and bid the postilion make all possible haste to reach the next station, which was the village of Wankow. The country is interspersed all the way, with a number of fine lakes, inasmuch that there appeared to me almost as much water as land. I saw numerous flocks of sheep, and all in very good plight. A little after dark I reached Wankow, ten miles from Dobbertin. The village is insignificant, consisting only of a few straggling cottages, but the postilion told me there was a very good house of entertainment. As it was quite dark, I resolved to go no farther that night; but when I came to order supper, I found the postilion was mistaken. They had nothing but salt pork to eat, and no other liquor than very bad beer and brandy. The good people, however, were very civil, and did every thing in their power to oblige me. I comforted myself with beer soup, a favourite mess in the little inns throughout this country; and having nobody to converse with, I went to bed betimes.

The next morning I rose before day, and after my usual regale of coffee, I set out from Wankow. The road at first was very pleasant, through a fruitful plain; but afterwards a great part of
it

it was heath, which made not so good an appearance. At a small distance, on the left, stands the town of Criwitz. The weather was cold and unpleasant, and somewhat hazy. From thence I came to a wood, where I crossed a rivulet, and then moved on very slowly, up hill and down hill all the way, till ten o'clock brought me to the village of Pinnow, ten miles from Wankow. The view from those hills is romantic, but the weather was so cold and unpleasant, that I had no great stomach for prospects. I stopped at Pinnow to refresh the horses, and drink a dish of coffee. I had now only eight miles farther to Schwerin; but the greater part of the road is through a rugged country. After I had crossed a pleasant valley, I reached the last eminence, from whence I had a full view of the city of Schwerin, and the neighbouring lake. The remainder of the journey was pleasant; the sun peeped out, and cheered my spirits: I soon passed a bridge on a morass, where I paid toll, and by one o'clock, on Sunday the ninth instant, I arrived safe at Schwerin. Here I set up at an inn, called Martinese's hof, from the name of the landlord, Martinese, and was glad of a little rest after so fatiguing a journey.

The first thing I did, was to send back the servant to Strelitz, with the chaise and horses; at the same time, I wrote a letter

of thanks to baron Dewitz. The people of this inn are extremely obliging; the landlady, in particular, is a well-bred woman. After I had dined, I inquired into the state of the court, and they told me that the duke of Mecklenburg Schwerin lives altogether at his villa, called Ludewigflust; that their serene highnesses, prince Lewis, and his consort, princess Charlotte, with princess Ulrica, the duke's sister, resided in the castle of Schwerin, and were now gone upon a visit to the duke, but would be back in two or three days. I resolved then to wait for their return, and in the mean time to amuse myself, as well as I could, in Schwerin.

The next morning, I waited on the marshal of the court, baron Lutzow, and delivered to him a letter from baron Dewitz. I told him I had also two more letters from the same gentleman, one to his cousin, baron Lutzow, the privy counsellor, and the other to baron Zulow, great cup-bearer, besides another from prince Charles of Mecklenburg Strelitz to princess Ulrica. The marshal is an old gentleman, rather low in stature, and much pitted with the small-pox: he received me very politely, and desiring me to give him my letters, said he would forward them in two or three hours, to Ludewigflust. It seems one of the duke's coaches was to set off about that time, with

with the count of Holstein, a young Danish nobleman, who was come to Schwerin, with a commission from the king and queen of Denmark. This commission was only a return of compliment to the duke, for having sent a nobleman to Altena, to congratulate their majesties on their happy nuptials. I thanked the marshal, who assured me, that he would endeavour to shew me, during my stay in Schwerin, all the civility in his power. At the same time he invited me to dine at court, and said that I was come in good time to see a famous show, known by the name of Martinsman; that this show would be exhibited in the court-yard of the duke's palace, where I should have a full view of it. This was agreeable to me to hear, and I told him I should do myself the honour of being there at the time appointed. In my return to my lodging, I met with a number of black-guard boys, their faces all besmeared with soot, and making much such another figure, and playing the same antic tricks, as our London chimney sweepers boys on May-day.

A little before one, I went to court, where I was most courteously received by the marshal, and introduced to the company. They all behaved to me with the greatest politeness, and welcomed me to Schwerin. There were about sixteen gentlemen, but not one lady. The most distinguished, were the

the marshal of the court, and the count de Flohr, secretary to princess Ulrica, baron Driebreg, steward of the household to the duchess, and colonel Gluer, governor of Rostock. There were two strangers besides myself, the count of Holstein, who was going to Ludewigslust; and captain Restorf, a Mecklenburg young nobleman in the duke of Brunswick's service; and whom I had often seen and conversed with in London. I was overjoyed to see the captain again, and he seemed to be no less pleased than surprized to meet with me at the court of Schwerin. The count of Holstein is a young nobleman of a middling stature, agreeable features, and genteel figure. He speaks good French, is free and easy in his deportment, and of a chearful disposition. Baron Driebreg is a fine old nobleman, of a very good size, handsome countenance, and fair complexion. He seems to be turned of seventy, yet is chearful and merry, and speaks pretty good English, which he learned many years ago in London. About one, dinner was brought in, a page said grace, and we all sat down without much ceremony. The apartment where we dined, is large and commodious, commanding a fine view of the garden, with the lake of Schwerin, a long sweep of meadows and fields, and a stately forest. The dinner was a soup, three courses, and a desert, and every thing seemed to be

be conducted much in the same manner as at Strelitz. After dinner we rose and drank coffee, and were in high chat, when a servant came to inform us, that the show of Martinsman was going to begin: upon which, we adjourned to princess Ulrica's apartment, from whence we could have a full view of the ceremony.

The court-yard was filled with an immense croud, among whom, were numbers of the black guards, I had seen in the morning, full of gesticulations, and clamorously demanding money for Martinsman. We had not gazed long, when a vehicle, resembling a post-waggon, drove into the court; in which vehicle, were seated a deputy of the magistrates of the city of Lubeck, several subaltern officers, dressed in red, a public notary, and two witnesses. They brought with them a hoghead of Rhenish wine, which the senate of Lubeck send every year, as a present to the duke of Mecklenburg Schwerin. They drove pretty fast round the court, throwing money among the mob, who fought and scrambled for it like devils. Presently an officer belonging to the duke, made his appearance, and was addressed by them in the following words: "The senate and citizens of Lubeck have sent this cask of wine to his serene highness, as a testimony of friendship and good neighbourhood." The duke's officer made answer; "We accept it not on account

count of friendship and good neighbourhood, but as a just debt and matter of obligation." Upon which, the deputy ordered the notary to take down his protest in writing, and the witnesses to attest it. The same caution was used on the side of the duke's officer, who entered a protest against his protest, with vehemence and warmth: then the deputy and his attendants were led into an apartment in the castle, and entertained with a good dinner. But what is very droll in this ceremony, the carriage is carefully examined before it drives into the court; and if there should happen to be a defect in the wheels, or any other part, the whole is forfeited to the duke. The deputy and his people stay all night, but are obliged to depart the next day before noon. The origin of this ludicrous ceremony is variously represented; but the most probable opinion derives it from the gratitude of the city of Lubeck to Henry I. count of Schwerin; who, by his intrepidity in seizing the person of Waldemar II. king of Denmark, restored the Hanse towns of Lubeck and Hamburg, with all this maritime part of Germany, to their ancient liberty; a liberty afterwards finally established, by the glorious victory of Bornhovede, in which the Danes were totally defeated. The city of Lubeck, in particular, having reaped so great a benefit from the heroic valour of that renowned prince,

which

which was so signally displayed on that important and ever memorable day, voluntarily offered this annual token of acknowledgement to him and his successors. The princes of Schwerin being afterwards extinct, and this county devolving to the dukes of Mecklenburg, the same annual acknowledgement has been continued to the present serene family.

As soon as the show was over, the company separated, and I took a walk in the garden, along with captain Restorf. After we had amused ourselves with remarks on the whimsical ceremony of Martinsman; we parted, and I went to pay a visit to Mr. Zurneddin, secretary of the regency, to whom I had a letter of recommendation from my friend, professor Æpinus, at Rostock. Mr. Zurneddin is a very handsome man, somewhat corpulent, and of a middling stature. He does not seem to be above forty; yet his great abilities as a lawyer, have raised him to a most respectable employment in the state. He is also a good historian, and well versed in polite literature. The civility with which he received me, is past expressing; and I could not refuse to spend the evening with him. There was another gentleman in company, Mr. Faul, counsellor of the court of chancery. We had an elegant supper, and some of the best mutton I ever tasted. His wines were also very good, and in short, the whole entertainment was extremely genteel.

The

The conversation was chiefly on matters of literature, and especially on the history of Mecklenburg, with which the secretary is perfectly acquainted. He has written an elaborate treatise, entitled, An historical and diplomatical Enquiry into the Municipal Rights of the City of Rostock, which he intends shortly to publish.

The two following days, I spent chiefly in viewing the town. Every morning, about ten o'clock, the court-marshal sends the harbinger to me, to invite me to dinner: prince Lewis and princess Ulrica being absent, there is no regular table at night; so that I spend the evenings in private companies. This afternoon I had notice given me, that their serene highnesses were returned from Ludewigslust, and would be glad to see me: upon which I waited on prince Lewis, and was introduced by his gentleman with little or no ceremony, The prince received me in the most gracious manner imaginable, expressed how glad he was to see me, and sorry that he had been absent at my arrival. It is impossible for a prince to behave with more freedom and ease, or with greater affability. He then introduced me to princess Charlotte his consort, and princess Ulrica, his sister. They told me I was welcome to Schwerin, and hoped that during my stay I should find some amusement. Princess Ulrica, who
speaks

speaks a little English, paid me the compliment to say she was overjoyed at seeing the writer of a history (meaning Vandalia) which had afforded her so much pleasure. In short, their behaviour was so complaisant, and I may say so flattering to me, that I was almost confounded. This same princess, by way of exercise, had begun to render some parts of my Vandalia into German, and I fancy that if she were sufficient mistress of the language, she would translate the whole. I spent the evening in chit-chat, with their highnesses, for there is no public card-playing at this court, and about nine we went to supper. Prince Lewis and princess Charlotte sat in the middle, and princess Ulrica over against them. Her highness desired me to be seated next to her, that she might have the opportunity of conversing with me in English. She speaks but indifferently as yet; her accent, however, is good, though she has only a German teacher; and her perseverance is such that I really think she will make herself mistress of the language. Towards the close of the evening, the marshal of the court acquainted me with his having received a letter from baron Zulow, the great cup-bearer, intimating, that the duke would be glad to see me at Ludewigslust, and that a coach would be ready to carry me thither the next day. I then took my leave of their serene highnesses, who told me

me they expected I would make some stay at Schwerin, upon my return from Ludewigslust. I acquainted them it was my intention, and retired to my lodging.

This morning I rose very early, thinking the coach would set off soon after breakfast; but finding it does not depart till one, because the Duke's chaplain, who is to go with me, cannot be ready till that time, I shall amuse myself with giving you an account of the city and court of Schwerin.

Schwerin is the capital of the dominions of Mecklenburg Schwerin, and the usual residence of the dukes of that line. Some apprehend it to be the Marione of Ptolemy; but there is no proof of such antiquity; on the contrary, it appears from Helmoldus, that Henry the Lion, duke of Saxony and Bavaria, ancestor of king George III. founded this city, in the 12th century. The same prince gave it the arms it still bears, viz. a knight in armour, mounted, holding in his right hand a banner, and in his left a shield, on which is painted a lion, with this inscription: *Dux Henricus est sigillum civitatis Suerinensis*. It soon became a considerable town, and was long ago celebrated by T. Langen, canon of Eimbeck and Goslar, in the following monkish rhimes.

Urbes

*Urbes muratæ, per Saxoniam nominatæ,
 In queis burgenſes famoſi ſuntque potentes,
 Havelburgenſes, Raceburgenſes, Suerinenſes,
 Magnipolis, Rippin, Grypheswald, pulchraque
 Stettin,
 Staden, Sund, Wiſmar, Slevic, Roſtock, ſimul et
 Bard,
 Hi modicum mæſti ſe conſervant & honeſti.
 Sunt mercatores, quibus attribuuntur honores,
 Sunt pannicidæ, pleni ſuper omnia fide,
 Hoſtibus infeſti ſunt hi quandoque moleſti,
 Unanimes cuncli ſunt pervigiles ita juncli;
 His deus hoc præſtat, quod eis ſapientia reſtat.*

The name is ſuppoſed to have been derived from the great plenty of game in the neighbourhood; Schwerin, in the Venedic language, ſignifying a deer-park. Few cities in Europe are more delightfully ſituated; it ſtands upon a beautiful lake, whoſe banks riſing in a gentle acclivity, attract the eye, being diverſified with pleaſant gardens, plentiful fields, ſhady groves, delightful woods, and paſture-land. The lake abounds with variety of fiſh, the woods with game, and the meadows with cattle. The town is almoſt ſquare, and divided into four parts, viz. Schwerin, the New Town, the Iſland or the Schelf, and the Moor, which are nearly encompassed by the lake. The old town is indifferently built, but the other parts, and eſpecially the Schelf, are adorned with handſome
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houses. That of count Bassewitz makes the best appearance, but there are several others of very good figure. Among the public structures, many deserve a traveller's notice. The cathedral is a fine gothic pile, greatly admired, being more airy and lightsome than the generality of such structures: in short, for its lofty spire, and the many internal decorations, it is not inferior to the famous church of St. Mary's, at Lubeck. Before the choir, is a crucifix with the following lines:

*Effigiem Christi dum transis semper honora,
Non quidem effigiem, sed quem designat adora.*

This church was built in 1170, by the above-mentioned duke Henry the Lion, who founded the see of Schwerin. But this see was secularized, by the treaty of Westphalia, in favour of the dukes of Mecklenburg. The same Henry the Lion had undertaken to fortify this town, in 1161, and appointed one of his officers, named Gunzelin, to the government thereof, with the title of count, to be held by him and his heirs, in fee of the duke of Saxony; but his posterity failing in 1360, it reverted to the house of Mecklenburg. Henry the Lion also favoured it with a charter, containing very great privileges, insomuch that the freedom of Schwerin was held nearly in as high esteem as that of Lubeck. You may remember I have pub-

published the laws of Schwerin in an appendix to the first volume of Vandalia. In the part called the Schelf, is a new church, the foundation of which was laid, in 1708, by duke Frederick William, with coins, or medals, underneath, containing this inscription on the face: *Fred. Wilhelm. D. G. Dux Megapolit. Princ.* and on the reverse, 1708, *die 15 Maii hoc templum priori majus Ser. Meg. Dux reg. Freder. Wilhelm. duraturo in ævum hoc lapide & metallo æturnum duraturæ pietatis testimonio inaugurabat.* It is a tetragon, of elegant architecture, but plain and neat, without any crowding of ornaments. Here is a vault, or burying-place, for the ducal family, of the line of Schwerin. The church, dedicated to St. Nicholas, is admired for the beauty of its situation. In the suburbs is a foundery for casting bells and cannon, which was formerly the chapel of St. George. There is also a public granary, which, before the Reformation, had been a Franciscan convent. The communication between this city, and the famous ports of Hamburgh and Lubeck, occasions a brisk trade in wine and foreign commodities, but the balance is intirely against the inhabitants of Schwerin.

The ducal palace is most delightfully situated, in the neighbourhood of Schwerin, on an island formed by the lake, and communicating with the town by means of a draw-bridge. It is fortified after the ancient manner; but the

works are of little use, and indeed gone to decay. The structure is spacious and lofty, and of a circular form, but not regular, having been erected at different times. On the left hand, as you enter the court, is a handsome chapel, and farther on is the office of the archives. The duke's apartments are also on this side, and on the first floor; but the ascent to them, by a high flight of steps, is inconvenient. Joining to these, are princess Ulrica's apartments, which front the gate; and the rest of that floor, on the right hand, belongs to Prince Lewis and his family. The duchess has a delightful apartment on the second story, over the duke's; but the remainder of that story, and the greater part of the ground floor, are for the several officers and servants of the household. The duke's apartment consists of a suite of rooms, most elegantly furnished. They have all an enchanting prospect of the lake of Schwerin, the town, and the adjacent country. The saloon, where their highnesses dine, is large and commodious, but not exactly regular. The concert-room is almost square, and decorated with a handsome cieling, and elegant carvings. Most of the rooms are embellished with paintings, and some by excellent masters. The portrait of Peter the Great is much admired, being, perhaps, the best resemblance of that prince; the marshal of the court assured me it was impossible to draw a better likeness; that he had known the Czar

Peter

Peter extremely well, for this prince had lain at his house after the famous battle of Gadebusch. There is a great variety of portraits of the princes and princesses of the serene family, in the other rooms; and, as they pretend, four of Raphael's cartoons. The audience-chamber is exceeding beautiful, and furnished in the highest taste. The duke's gallery, consisting of seven rooms of large dimensions, is well stocked with the most exquisite paintings, by the principal masters, and with all sorts of natural and artificial rarities. I have gone through the whole three or four times, and can assure you, that there are few princes in Germany who have a finer museum. To enumerate the particulars would exceed the bounds of a letter, and indeed I have not had time as yet to make a list. I wish his highness would order a catalogue to be printed; it would be the means of disclosing a treasure, which now lies buried as it were in a corner of Germany. What struck me particularly, is a very large collection of Venedic antiquities, that have been discovered, within a century, in the duchy of Mecklenburg. This collection was begun by a late physician, Dr. Mithoff, who bequeathed it to the duke, on condition his son should be appointed secretary of the museum. The condition was granted; his son, M. Mithoff is secretary, and takes great pleasure in his office. He is a man of a considerable fortune, and now

building a house, which will be one of the best in Schwerin. This fortune, however, was left him by a relation; for I believe he has little or no salary from the duke: being apprized that I had written the history of his country, he took a pleasure in shewing me all the curiosities relative to the ancient Venedi. There are instruments and tools of all sorts, laid in proper order; but, what is very extraordinary, none are made of iron, but all of a kind of mixed metal, which they here call tombach, and is very like brass; even their knives, swords, hammers, &c. are all of this metal; but some of their sacrificing knives, and razors, are flint. Here are also a number of gold rings, which were found in urns dug up in the mountainous part of the country, and supposed to have contained the remains of some of the ancient Venedic kings. The whole collection is well worth the curiosity of an antiquarian.

Adjoining to the gate of the palace, is the guard-room; and in going towards the town, you pass over a draw-bridge, from whence you proceed to the parade, which is extremely pleasant and open, with a fine avenue of trees, contiguous to the parade; on the left hand are the duke's coach-house and stables, which are large and convenient; but the best horses are now at his highness's stables in Ludewigs-Luft. On the back side of the palace are the duke's gardens;

gardens, to which you also pass by a draw-bridge. They were laid out in a most elegant taste, by one Leger a Frenchman, in the reign of the late duke Christian Lewis II. This Leger was a great favourite of that prince, who built a handsome house for him at one side of the garden; but the Frenchman was so extravagant as to keep a seraglio, which ran him into debt, and obliged him at length to move off, before the gardens were quite finished. The part he has executed is very beautiful. Fronting the draw-bridge is a fine piece of water, branching four different ways in the form of a cross, and intersecting so many areas, which are beautifully variegated with shades, walks of lofty trees, and parterres of flowers. On the banks of the canal are twenty four beautiful stone statues, done by a German sculptor at Hamburg, in imitation of antiques. At the extremity of the garden is a hill, to which you ascend by steps cut in the sod, and on the top you have a charming prospect of the lake and town of Schwerin, with the adjacent country.

So much for the palace and gardens of Schwerin: I shall conclude this letter with a short view of the present state of the court.

COURT of SCHWERIN.

The SOVEREIGN.

Frederick II. duke of Mecklenburg Schwerin, born November the 9th, 1717, came to the sovereignty April 30, 1756, upon the death of his father, Christian Lewis II.

His CONSORT.

Louisa Frederica, daughter of duke Frederick Lewis, hereditary prince of Wurtenburg Stuttgart, and of princess Henrietta Maria of Brandenburg Suedt, born Feb. 3, 1722, and married 1749; but has had no children.

BROTHER and SISTERS to His SERENE
HIGHNESS.

Lewis, prince of Mecklenburg Schwerin, only brother of the reigning duke, born August the 6th, 1725.

This prince married May the 14th, 1755, princess Charlotte Sophia, daughter of Francis Josiah, duke of Saxe Saalfeld, which princess Charlotte Sophia was born Sep. the 24th, 1731.

Their ISSUE are,

1. Prince Frederick Francis, born December the 10th, 1756; now a student at Laufanne.

2. Princess Sophia Frederica, born August 24, 1758.

The duke has only two sisters living :

1. Princess Ulrica, born July 1st, 1723.

2. Princess Amelia, born March the 3d, 1732,

The

The DUKE's Household.

Marſhal of the court, baron de Lutzow.

Steward of the houſhold *, baron de Forſt-
ner.

Chief cup bearer, baron de Zulow.

Chief gentleman of the bed-chamber, baron
de Oertz.

Gentlemen of the bed-chamber, baron de
Luhe, baron de Dorn, baron de Lutzow, baron
de Pentz, baron de Klein, baron de Krakewitz,
baron de Kamptz.

Great huntsman, baron de Pentz.

Maſter of the horſe, baron de Koppelow,

Steward of the houſhold to the duchefs, ba-
ron de Drieberg.

Maid of honour, mademoiſelle de Suhm.

Maids of honour to princeſs Charlotte, Ma-
demoiſelle de Drieberg, mademoiſelle de
Wurmb.

Gentleman of the bed-chamber to prince
Lewis, baron de Vietinghoff.

Maid of honour to princeſs Ulrica, mademoi-
ſelle de Chambeaux.

Gentlemen in waiting to princeſs Ulrica, the
count de Flohr, and baron de Stralendorff.

* The German term is Schloß hauptman, that is,
captain of the caſtle; which I tranſlated, in one of my
former letters, by Mayor of the palace; but I think it
comes nearer to Maggior domo, or ſteward of the houſ-
hold,

Maids

Maids of honour to princess Amelia, madame de Winckstern, mademoiselle de Gluer.

Gentleman in waiting to princess Amelia, baron de Vieregg.

Governor to prince Frederick Francis, at Laufanne, baron de Usedom.

MINISTERS of STATE.

Premier, his excellency the count de Bassewitz.

Baron de Teuffel de Birckenfei, at Ratisbon.

Baron de Lutzow.

Baron de Both.

Monfieur de Schmidt.

THE CHAMBER of FINANCES.

Baron de Warnstadt.

Baron de Mullern, privy counsellors.

Comptroller, baron de Kamptz.

LAW OFFICERS.

Chief director of justice, vacant.

Counsellor, the count de Grevenitz.

President of the tribunal of Gustrow, his Excellency the count de Bassewitz.

Vice president, baron de Luhe.

Assessors, baron de Bulow, baron de Storch, baron de Prun.

THE DUKE'S BODY GUARDS.

Colonel, baron de Barffe.

Major, baron de Schuckman.

Captains, baron d'Vietinghoff, baron Oldenburg, baron de Krakewitz, baron de Klein.

Lieutenants, baron de Muller, baron de Parfow, baron de Pei, fen. baron de Pei, jun.

Commandant of the ducal residence of Schwerin, baron de Both, colonel of a regiment of foot.

Commandant of the city of Rostock, baron de Gluer, colonel of a regiment of foot.

This is the best list I could procure of the persons of rank belonging to this court: I shall not at present attempt to delineate their characters, being not as yet sufficiently acquainted with them; so that you must wait till I am better informed. I am now just setting off for Ludewigs-Luft, where I hope to find an ample field for entertaining your curiosity; at least, my attention will convince you, that I am ever desirous of shewing myself

Dear Sir,

Yours, &c.



LETTER XIX.

Ludewigs-Lust, November 21, 1766.

DEAR SIR,

I SET out from Schwerin for this place, in the duke's coach, the 14th instant, about one in the afternoon, in company with the court-chaplain Mr. Pallman, and Mr. Beneke, his highness's watch-maker: the former is a thin man of low stature, very sensible, and of exemplary morals; the latter is an Hanoverian from Hamel, a jolly handsome man, who speaks pretty good English, having lived some time in London. The duke has opened a new road from Schwerin to Ludewigs-Lust, appropriated to his highness's own private use. The country, all the way, is the duke's demesne, and consists chiefly of forest, with some ploughed lands. The distance is fifteen miles. We stopped at about half way, to admire a fine spot called the Star, round which are nine beautiful openings or vistas, through the forest: not far from thence is an inn, called the half-way house, where we alighted to refresh ourselves; and reached this place

place about five o'clock. An officer, called the castellan, introduced me to his room, where I drank coffee; he informed me that the duke and duchess had been abroad that afternoon, to take the air, and were but just returned; that he had apprized baron Zulow of my arrival, and received orders to conduct me to my apartment: this was called the young prince's, who lies in this room when he comes to Ludewigs-Luft. There I staid for above an hour, during which time, the court-physician, a very good natured gentleman, sat and kept me company. About seven o'clock, two gentlemen came into the room, whom I found to be baron Lutzow, the privy-counsellor, and baron Zulow, the great cup-bearer. The former wore a white ribbon, as an ensign of the order of the elephant. These were the noblemen to whom I had had recommendatory letters from baron Dewitz. They welcomed me to Ludewigs-Luft in the politest terms, and declared their intention of contributing all in their power to render my stay agreeable. They told me that the duke and duchess were pleased to hear of my arrival, and that I should be introduced to their highnesses before supper. So much politeness required due compliments of thanks on my side, in which I flatter myself I was not deficient. The conversation soon turned upon the court of Strelitz; and they asked very particularly after baron

baron Dewitz, who is their intimate friend. Baron Lutzow then gave me an account of his late visit to the king and queen of Denmark; and I found that he had been highly pleased with his commission. Thus the time past away till nine o'clock, when the trumpet sounded, which is the usual summons to table at the courts of German princes.

We then adjourned to the saloon, in which their highnesses usually dine, and from thence I was conducted by the two barons, to an apartment on the left hand, where I found the duke and duchess standing. Baron Zulow presented me to their serene highnesses, who received me with all that affability and condescension with which they so well know how to temper their princely dignity. The duke was dressed in blue, trimmed with gold: the duchess was in a riding habit, with a bag wig, and a cocked hat with a feather; a dress she wears here every day, except on Sundays. After this ceremony was over, we went to sup in the saloon, and I was seated next the duke. The company was very small; the duke and duchess, mademoiselle de Suhm, madam de Lutzow, madam de Zulow; baron Lutzow, baron Zulow, and baron Pentze; the three ladies were also in riding habits like the duchess. A page said grace before and after supper. The entertainment was much the same as at the court of Strelitz; a soup and three courses, with a desert.

The

The duke and duchess conversed with me the whole time of supper with great chearfulness, and asked me many questions concerning her majesty. They had received the highest pleasure at the news of her safe delivery; and during the time of her pregnancy, had ordered prayers for her throughout their dominions. The duke understands English a little, and expresses a strong desire of recovering his former knowledge of the language: he had been in London a few months, during the reign of the late duke his father, and regrets very much that his affairs at that time did not permit him to make a longer stay. After supper, we all stood up; the company broke into parties, the duke and duchess retiring into a corner of the room, where their highnesses were pleased to honour me with their conversation for about an hour. The duke assured me, that my History of Mecklenburg was approved of by the literati of his country, and that he could wish he were sufficiently master of the English tongue, to read it in the original: both he and the duchess repeated what baron Zulow had informed me, that my visit was very acceptable to them; and that the baron should shew me the new improvements, in his gardens. I found the duke quite another person, from what he had been represented to me by several people, who talked of him

as a prince of too much austerity and moroseness; whereas, his behaviour towards me, was open, easy, and chearful; and during the whole time of conversation, he had a pleasant smile on his countenance. I expressed my acknowledgements of thanks to his highness, for the great honour done me; adding that I had heard a great deal of the beauty and magnificence of his gardens, and should no doubt find a pleasure in surveying them with attention. Their highnesses then withdrew; and, after a little chat with the noblemen and ladies, I also retired to my apartment.

The next morning, after breakfast, baron Zullo called upon me in order to make the intended survey of the gardens. He was in a one-horse chaise, which had no wheels, but rollers, to prevent any damage to the walks. The view of this fine place infinitely surpassed my expectation, and I took the whole forenoon to examine its most striking beauties. The sight was so ravishing, that I have repeated it every day, and I find something new each visit. It surpasses, in my opinion, most of the gardens that I have seen throughout Europe. The duke himself planned the whole, taking nature for his pattern, and striving to imitate her in her amiable simplicity, and all her beautiful irregularities. These fill the mind with a more refined sense of delight, than the most curious contrivances of art.

No

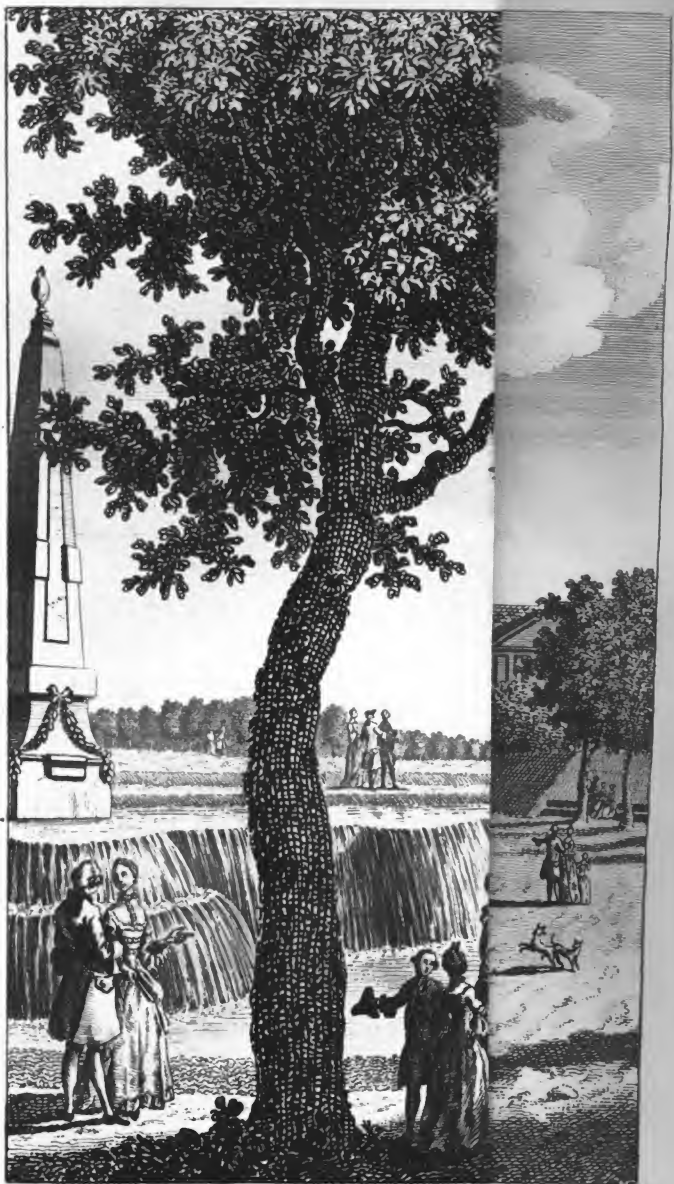
No widow'd plantane, nor clipp'd box-tree
here,
The uselefs soil unprofitably share;
But simple nature's hand, with nobler grace,
Diffuses artlefs beauties o'er the place.

To give you a just description of this paradise would require an abler pen than mine; I intend, however, to draw a sketch of it; but first shall mention a word or two concerning the palace and the offices.

Ludewigs-Lust, is a German word, signifying Lewis's Recreation or delight; it is only a hunting-seat, built by Christian Lewis II. the present duke's father. Hence there is nothing magnificent in the building, as it was never intended for the duke's residence; but only became so by chance, from the great inclination his present highness has to retirement. Yet is it a very neat structure, and makes a handsome appearance. It consists only of a ground floor, with wings on each side for the gentlemen and ladies attending their highnesses. The body of the building is sixty-five feet in breadth, with fourteen windows in front. The entrance is through a small portico, which leads to a handsome salon, where the duke and duchess dine. On the right hand are the duke's apartments, very small, but well contrived. They consist of four rooms, elegantly furnished, and

filled with all manner of curiosities. One of these is the duke's cabinet, or museum, in which he has all his mechanical instruments. In the other rooms are very fine paintings, and particularly portraits, among which, those of the duchess and princess Ulrica are much admired. Here is likewise a fine musical clock, with which the duke was presented by her majesty. There are several other mechanical curiosities, which would take up too much time at present to enumerate. Perhaps I may have another opportunity of giving you a complete list of the duke's museum here, and at Schwerin. On the left hand of the salon, are the duchess's apartments, much of the same dimensions as the duke's, and elegantly furnished. But both these apartments are much too small for their highnesses, and the duke intends very soon to erect on this his favourite spot, a magnificent palace.

The duke's stables, on the right hand, are a structure equally beautiful and solid, built after the manner of the king of France's stables at Versailles, and much with the like dispositions. They contain separate stalls for a vast number of horses, all remarkable for their goodness and beauty. In the centre is the figure of a horse's head, which spouts out of its mouth, into a stone trough, a large quantity of water. The whole is neat and elegant ;



The Grand Cascade, &c. J. Goussier del.

gant; and the duke's grooms, and other servants belonging to the stables, are lodged here in a very convenient manner.

Before the palace is a handsome parade, and at the distance of 118 paces, a large canal, which forms a noble and magnificent cascade. This cascade is 100 paces in length; the water discharges itself, in one great sheet, into another bed, which runs, at a small distance from thence, into the garden. In the middle of the canal, is a beautiful water-clock, of the duke's own ingenious contrivance. On the right and left are two houses, lately built, in the resemblance of ruined edifices, and somewhat in the nature of Lord Holland's towers, in the isle of Thanet. At the distance of sixty paces from the grand cascade, is a fine basin, of a circular figure, 300 paces in circumference. On the right, is a sluice to let out the water. What is very extraordinary, five years ago there was no water at Ludewigs-Lust. This famous canal was made by the present duke at an immense expence, by causing a great ditch to be dug from the lake of Schwerin, and another from the river Elde; the waters conveyed by these channels, join by a sluice near a place called Frederick's-moor, and glide gently on, in one united stream, to Ludewigs-Lust, where they form such a variety of beautiful cascades and fountains.

On the right and left of the grand bason, are the maisonettes, or offices, lately built by the duke, for servants and artificers, as engravers, painters, &c. of whom his highness entertains a considerable number. They are neat, convenient houses, consisting only of a ground-floor, but all uniform, and making a pretty appearance. The whole is terminated by a new church, lately begun, which, when finished, will be one of the finest in this country. It is intended to be the parish church, the old one having been so ruinous, that it was scarce either safe or decent to be left standing any longer. The shell only is done at present, but they go on with the work very fast, and expect to finish it in a year or two. The church is sixty-seven paces in length, and forty-five in breadth. So much for the house ; I now come to the gardens.

The gardens of Ludewigs-Lust are properly what the inhabitants of the eastern countries called by the name of Paradise ; viz. a large space of ground, adorned with all sorts of trees, both of fruits and of forest ; partly cultivated, like our gardens, for shades and walks, with streams and fountains, and a variety of plants usual in the climate ; and partly inclosed, like our parks, for harbouring game, as well as for the pleasure of riding and walking.

The

The form of the ground is flat, except a few eminences raised by art, to diversify the prospect.

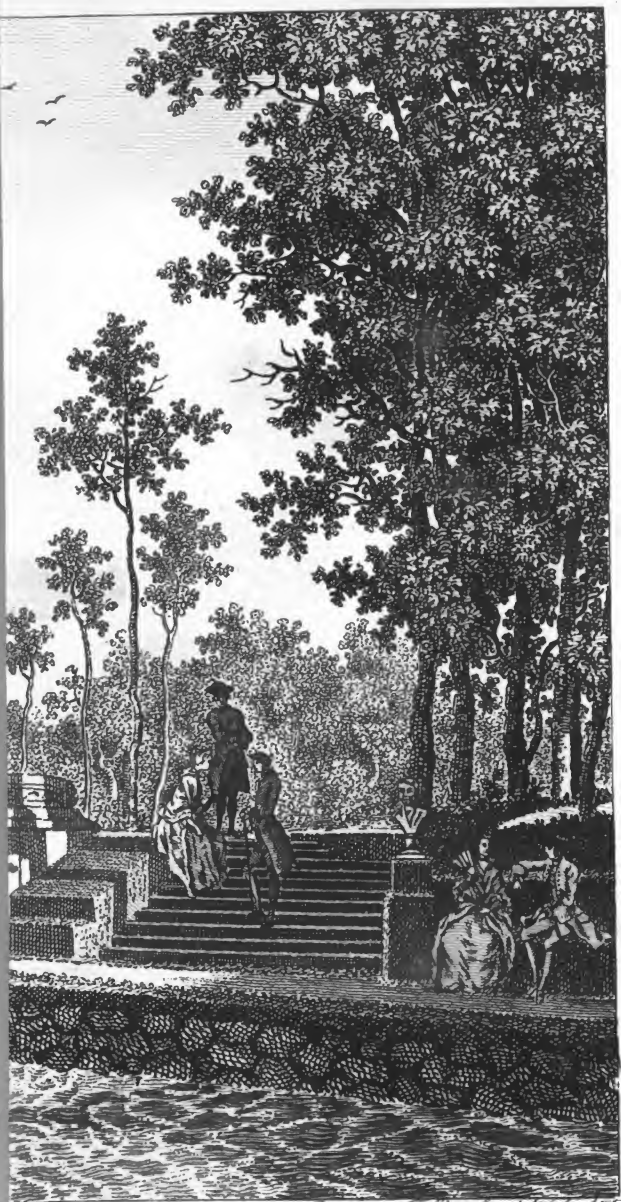
On the back of the palace is the lesser garden, 269 paces in length, and terminating in the park. It is fenced round with a palisade, and enclosed on each side with a wall. In the middle are two gates, one on the right, leading to the kitchen-garden, and another on the left, leading to the park and the great canal. These gates are 166 paces distant from the palisade. The breadth, from one gate to the other, is 151 paces. The garden is adorned with two basins; these are lined with pebbles, forming a variety of figures, and in each of the basins is a jet d'eau. There are also four handsome stone statues; those representing Music and Painting, the one by Mignot, and the other by Gillet, are greatly esteemed. On each side of the walls are fine shady walks; and the garden is enchantingly variegated with a number of labyrinths, groves, and parterres.

The kitchen-garden towards the gate on the right hand, is of about the same dimensions as the other; in the middle of it is a fine piece of water, with a handsome bridge, which gives it a most agreeable appearance.

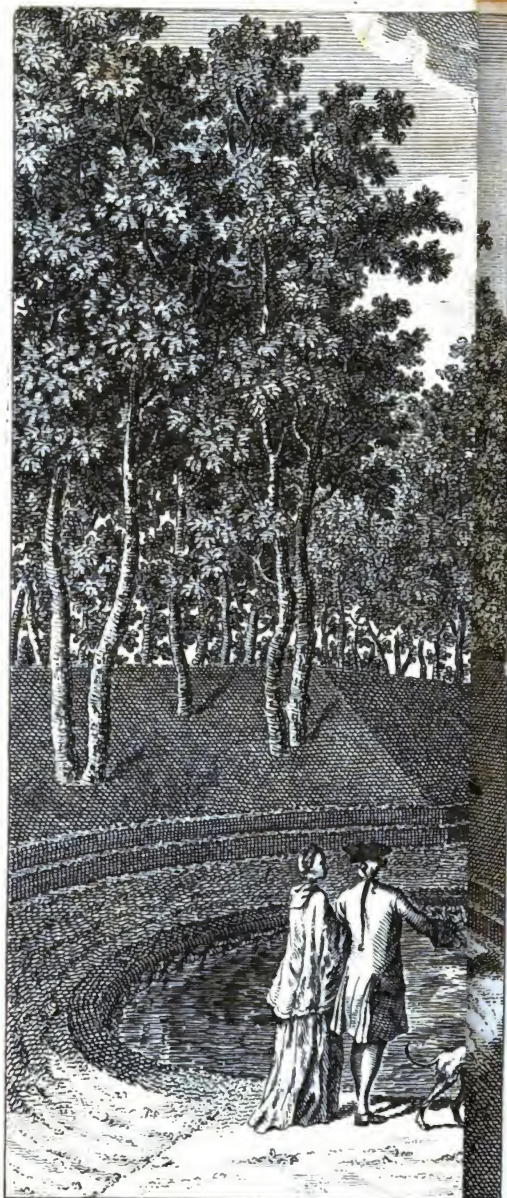
Fronting the garden-gate, on the left hand, is a beautiful avenue, with a lake or large piece

of water before it, supplied by the great canal : this canal, after forming the grand cascade, runs into the garden ; but before entering the lake, it forms another cascade on the left ; and over it is a bridge leading to the coach-road. On the right side of the lake stands a pleasant summer-house, adorned with a variety of paintings, by the best masters. Before it is a wide avenue, but of no great length, with a small cascade on the left ; and on the back of the summer-house is a long alley of trees, with a purling stream, forming two beautiful cascades. In this summer-house is also the model of the new church of Ludewigs-Lust,

Finding myself very cold in the chaise, I proposed to the baron to get out and walk, and at a small distance from the summer-house my eye was ravished with a magnificent prospect : three beautiful avenues appeared in view, with canals in two of them, almost outstretching the sight. That on the right is the above-mentioned, facing the summer-house ; that on the left is of a vast length, but not adorned with a canal. The third avenue exactly faces the lake or great piece of water, which forms a beautiful stream, running in a straight line to the end of a noble vista of about four English miles : at the entrance of this avenue a handsome bridge over the canal, with the following inscription on stone, Fredericus



J. Simpson del. & Sculp.
House, of Ludwigslust.



The 2 Cascades with the Jet d'Eau, as last.

ricus D. G. Dux Megapolitanus MDCCLX. Here the water issues in a very strong current from the great basin into the canal, and forms two beautiful cascades. This paradisiacal scene is heightened by the number of milk-white swans, disporting on the surface of the basin. At the entrance of the wood is a very good foot-way, on each side the canal, with a variety of bustos raised on the banks of this delightful stream. A little farther on, is a bridge with a cascade, and a handsome jet d'eau. The banks of the canal are variegated in imitation of nature, being sometimes bare and gravelly, sometimes covered with wood quite to the water's edge, and in some places covered in summer time with flowers and shrubs. At a small distance on each side, are rows of alder trees, of an amazing height, which, in the sultry weather, seclude the scorching rays of the sun. The park and wood are well stocked with deer, and especially with wild boars, numbers of which I was delighted to see crossing the water; they do no harm to such as do not attempt to molest them, but when irritated in the chase, they are extremely ferocious. Baron Zulow told me, that the first time general Græme saw a living wild boar, was in this very park.

Continuing our walk on the right side of the canal, we came to Cæsar's grove, so called from the bustos of the twelve Cæsars, placed round

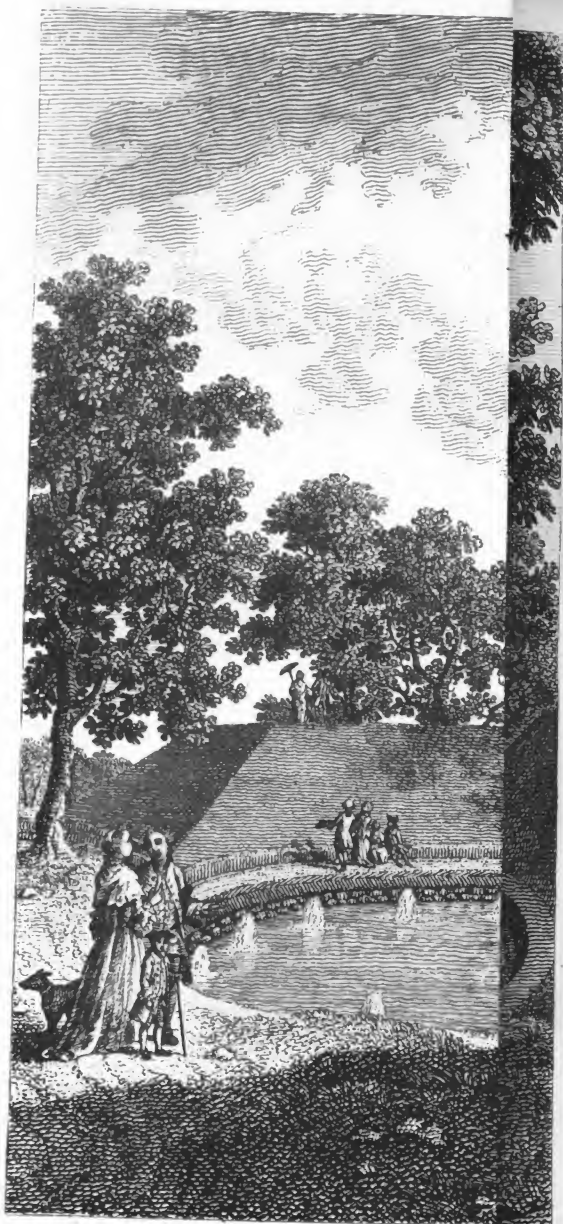
this shady retreat. They are made of plaister, but become so hardened by the weather, as to be almost as durable as stone. Close by this grove, the canal forms a round basin with a handsome fountain. On each side are fine walks, inclosed with mounts, which you ascend by steps, cut in the turf. The whole ground is laid out in a variety of scenes, with winding paths in the groves, to some striking point of view, or agreeable vista.

Not far from thence is another cascade, and on the right hand, a rivulet glides gently thro' the grove, and falls murmuring into the canal. Near this is a bridge, and a little farther, appears the circle-cascade. This indeed is one of the most beautiful objects I ever beheld. It takes its name from a round basin before it, which has twenty-four lesser jets d'eau in a circular form, and one great fountain in the middle continually playing. The cascade itself is very grand and beautiful, being in the form of a half moon. Near it are two mounts, with steps cut in the sod: I ascended, and was charmed with a most lovely landscape; for the wood opens considerably on the right, and affords a variegated prospect of corn-fields, and meadows stocked with well favoured cattle; a silver stream winding through the meadows, and mingling its waters with the grand canal.

If



Simpfoudet. Sculp.



The Circle Cascade et. Sculp.





Prospect of a Sluice in the Garden shut again.

If the perfection of a garden consists in the number, beauty, and diversity of the scenes, those of Ludewigs-Luft richly deserve that character. After the eye has been refreshed with the most rural beauties, it is gradually led to those of the enchanting kind, where artifices excite surprise. Thus, from the circle-cascade, where a variety of agreeable objects are combined in such a manner as to form a most amusing scene, I was drawn into another, which struck me with amaze and some mixture of terror. This was the great sluice, a most ingenious machine, of the duke's own invention.

Here I sat me down on a bank, feasting my eye with the luxuriant store of nature's beauties, when a thundering noise shook my whole frame, and the flood-gates of the opposite side, instantaneously opening, poured out a torrent so unexpected, so copious and rapid, that I was afraid the baron and I should be overwhelmed by the inundation; but instantly the machine closed again of itself, and stemmed the impetuosity of the foaming element. The baron told me that his highness had sent over to the queen a drawing of this machine, with an explanation of the mechanism. After I had recovered from my fright, and with a curious eye surveyed the machine, I proceeded in my walk, till I came to another cascade

cascade, where a little island is formed in the canal, with two bridges leading to each side. Here again the wood opens, with fourteen cuts or apertures, terminating in so many points of view, of different length and beauty; some in lawns and spacious plains, others in hills and vales, others in stately trees and groves, others in flocks of sheep, others in silver lakes; but all together forming a glorious groupe, where taste and harmony are most happily combined. Not far from thence, continuing in a direct line, is another cascade, where also is formed a round island, with a bridge on each side of the canal. Here I found another aperture in the wood, and my eye was ravished with four different prospects.

At length I reached the point terminating the vista at the entrance of the grand avenue. Here I espied a thick grove, with a small cascade on the right. Turning to the left, the canal divides itself into two branches, forming a pretty long island. This was my *ne plus ultra*; the stream afterwards loses itself in the wood, and falls at length into the Elde. The park, adorned with these magnificent water-works, is fourteen miles in circumference, well stocked with deer, and rich in fine timber. The trees are oak, beech, alder, but especially the latter, which grow to a surprizing height.

Thus have I given you a sketch of the
4 delightful

delightful gardens of Ludewigs-Lust; but it is a very imperfect sketch indeed, and none but a Homer should attempt to delineate such gardens. For surely neither Alcinous, nor any others mentioned in fabulous writings, could surpass what art and nature have realized in this part of the world. And yet, if this place has appeared to me so enchanting and so heavenly, at this season of the year, when the sun from afar peeps with a sickly face, and nature hath almost lost its green livery, what effect do you think it would have in the vernal season, when every bough is decked with new leaves, and the exhilarated birds, hopping from spray to spray, warble through the grove, and

Both ears and eyes receive a like delight,
Enchanting music, and a charming sight.

How truly might I then say with the poet!

Ah happy grove! dark and secure retreat
Of sacred silence, rest's eternal seat;
How willingly could I for ever stay,
Pleas'd with the gentle murmur of these
streams!

This shadowing desert, unfrequented woods,
I better brook than flourishing peopled
towns:

Here I can sit alone unseen of any.

Oh!

Oh! if kind Heaven had been so much my
friend,

To make my fate upon my choice depend,
All my ambition I would here confine,
And only this elysium should be mine.

After I had pretty well surveyed this paradise, I got back to my apartment time enough for dinner, and found the same company as the preceding evening. Our dinner was a soup, three courses and a desert; and this is the constant rule of the duke's table. Their highnesses asked me how I liked the park and gardens, and upon my expressing the great delight I had received, the duke told me he would make me a present of the etchings of the chief beauties of Ludewigs-Lust; for which I thanked his highness. After dinner, we went to see the riding-master exercising some young horses; and the duke seemed to take a great pleasure in their fine appearance, though he does not ride himself, being deterred by a fall, some time ago, by which he was very much hurt. As I was returning to my apartment, baron Zulow desired me to go and see a wild boar, which had been killed that day in the forest. It was a very large one, resembling pretty much a swine, and was served up the next day at table. The Mecklenburg nobility
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are particularly fond of the head, which they have a way of curing, and is very delicate eating. The best part of the evening, baron Zulow spent with me in my apartment, and after he was gone, M. Pallman, the court-preacher, came and chatted awhile with me. He never dines with the duke, nor is any clergyman admitted to this prince's table. This is an etiquette of the court of Mecklenburg Schwerin, not from any dislike to the sacred order, the duke being very religious, and shewing great regard, in other respects, for such of the clergy who endeavour to edify the people by their exemplary behaviour, and purity of morals. Before supper, I presented the duke with a copy of my *Vandalia*, which his highness received very graciously, and only regretted that he had not the happiness of being sufficiently acquainted with the English language. His highness took me into his cabinet, which is very curious, and deserving a traveller's notice. This prince, as I mentioned to you before, is a great mechanic, and spends his leisure hours in this useful study. He shewed me, among other things, a picture of the queen, very like her majesty. It was no small regret to him, that he had never seen that amiable princess, though he is personally acquainted with all the rest of her branch.

We

We went to supper at nine, which is the usual hour, and during the whole time of repast, the duke and duchess did me the honour to ask me a variety of questions about England. There is little or no ceremony here in point of dress; the gentlemen wear no swords, and even sit down in their boots with the duke. His highness constantly appears in the same apparel. The ladies are always in a riding habit, as going on an airing every day with the duchess. This, however, becomes them very well, and with their hats and bag wigs, they appear like Amazons. After supper, their highnesses retired to one part of the room, where they continued to chat with me for above an hour; and this has been their constant practice every day since I have been here. The conversation turned on the late ravages committed by the Prussians in the duchy of Mecklenburg. The duke was obliged to retire to Lubeck, but the duchess and princess Ulrica staid at Ludewigs-Lust. Their highnesses spoke with some indignation of the Prussians, and represented the outrages committed by those troops as exceeding the usual limits of hostilities. For instance, the duke's very palaces were not spared, but the barbarous soldiers seized every thing they could lay their hands on. But what gave most uneasiness to the duchess was, that the Prussian commandant

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ant happened to be her own cousin, the prince of Wurtemberg, who behaved to her and her sister without the least regard either to kindred, or even to sex or rank. Besides, she is a near relation of his Prussian majesty, and from such a connexion she flattered herself with the hopes of being treated with some consideration. She owns, indeed, that the behaviour of the subaltern officers was more decent than that of the chief commander, her cousin of Wurtemberg, who acted his part with great haughtiness and severity. All he deigned to say in excuse was, that he must execute his orders; which must have been very severe, for he produced a letter in which the Prussian monarch makes use of the terms, *écrasez les*, meaning the Mecklenburghers. Her highness promised to give me a minute account of the violences and depredations committed by the Prussians during their short stay in this country, which I fancy will be worthy of your curiosity. About eleven the duke and duchess retired, and I withdrew to my apartment, where the murmuring of the great cascade soon lulled me to sleep.

The next day, being Sunday, I rose early in the morning, and baron Zulow came and breakfasted with me, bringing with him the Amsterdam Gazette, and the French *Mercure*. I asked him when, and where, divine

divine service was to be performed ; he told me, that, till the church was finished, the duke's chaplain read prayers in the dining-hall. I amused myself after breakfast with the news-papers, and then went to take a new survey of the park and gardens, a practice I have constantly observed since I have been at Ludewigs-Lust. I returned by dinner-time, and waited on baron Zulow, who conducted me to the hall, when the trumpet sounded. The weather being very fine, the duke had been out a-walking, and was not yet return'd ; but the ducheſs ſat down to dinner, for his highneſs does not chuſe they ſhould wait, when he has paſſed the fixed time. The dutcheſs and the ladies were full dreſſed, as they always are on Sundays ; and the difference of their appearance was ſo great, that I hardly knew them. We had not been a quarter of an hour at table, when the duke came in, attended only by one of the gentlemen in waiting ; we all roſe till he ſat down, when he made a kind of apology for not coming to his time. So much condeſcenſion in a ſovereign prince, ſurprized me very much, and afforded me the ſtrongest proof of his benignity and good nature. Forms and ceremonies are the ſhackles of princes, and the farther they withdraw from outward pageantry, the nearer they approach to domeſtick happineſs.

After

After dinner the duke and dutchefs retired, as usual, into a corner of the hall, where his highness thought proper to enter upon the topic of religion. There was nothing gloomy or sour in his looks, nothing precise in his talk or demeanour; but a chearful easy conversation, mixed with sentiments of true piety. This good prince has read and meditated a great deal; and, latterly, his thoughts have been applied chiefly to religion. I was surpris'd to find him so great a master of the abstruser points of metaphysics, among which I may reckon his proofs of the existence of a deity, and of the immortality of the soul. He is well acquainted with all Descartes' arguments, and produced them in the course of conversation, but without the least air of ostentation, or literary vanity. I observed, that he greatly lamented the decline of religion in the present age, and especially among statesmen, who reduce it to a meer political engine. Yet even among the heathens, religion was reckoned the foundation of government. *Religio*, says Tacitus, *fundamentum principatus*. And this same historian, directing a prince how to govern his people, gives him this advice: *veneretur princeps unum illud summum & æternum, neque mutabile, neque interiturum numen, ut consilia sua reip. prosperet*. But the corruption of the present age, added the duke, should never deter a prince from enforcing religion by

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authority and example; and provided he discharges his duty, he should be indifferent about what the herd of wordlings, statesmen, or politicians, say in regard to his conduct. As for himself he was blamed, he knew, by several, for living too retired; yet those hasty censurers were absolutely unacquainted with his reasons, and the necessity of his affairs. The conduct of his uncle, duke Charles Leopold, had involved his country in very great difficulties, by draining it of men and money, and encumbering it with a heavy mortgage; it was therefore his duty to live retired, and to forego all pleasures, (for which, however, he is not without a taste as well as other princes), in order to lighten the burden of his people. In the silence of this retirement, he avoids all dissipation, by which means he is better qualified for business, than if he lived in Schwerin, where he might be engaged, or it would be expected he should engage in a round of idle pleasures and amusements. He often sits up till two or three in the morning, and many imagine, he is busying himself with mathematical problems, whilst he is employing his thoughts about the ease and relief of his people. He cannot think of pleasure; when his subjects are distressed; if they are happy, that is sufficient felicity for him: but the road to happiness is œconomy, industry, and above all, a true sense of religion. Hence he has thought proper to restrain the theatrical entertainments,

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tainments, established at Schwerin in the reign of his late father; because, though he is sensible, that the stage, under proper regulations, might be rendered instructive, and perhaps conducive to good morals; yet, experience has always shown, its consequences to be quite the reverse. Besides in a small state, such as the duchy of Mecklenburg, plays would be an encouragement to idleness, and extravagance; promote dissipation, and divert the spirit of industry. This, and a good deal more, his highness said in the course of conversation; and I must own, I was greatly delighted, and improved, with the sublime sentiments of so wise and religious a prince.

Our conversation was interrupted by the bell for prayers, when the duke retired into his apartment on the right hand, and the duchess into hers on the left. The duke was by himself, but the duchess was attended by the ladies and noblemen, whom I had the honour of accompanying. The doors of both apartments were open, so that we could see the clergyman, who officiated in the hall, which served occasionally for a chapel. The duke's servants, and the people of the village, filled the hall; in the middle of which, was erected a pulpit for the preacher. This was my friend, M. Pallman, the same who came with me in the coach from Schwerin. The service was very long, but I was

greatly pleased to hear them chant their hymns with such melody and devotion. The music being over, Mr. Pallman began his sermon, which was certainly a well composed discourse. But he has not a very happy delivery, as appeared by the behaviour of a considerable part of his hearers. The duchess and the ladies were on one side of the room; the gentlemen on the other. The preacher had not harangued his audience above a quarter of an hour, when I observed, that the duchess took to her needle, immediately another lady did the same, and one or two more fell to knotting. This they continued the remainder of the sermon, which lasted a full hour and a half.

After service the duchess shewed me two fine portraits of our queen, one large, and the other small; the latter she received as a present from her majesty. She likewise shewed me two excellent portraits of the young prince and princess, the only children of prince Lewis, the duke's brother, both of them done by M. Matthieu, his highness's painter. I then retired to my apartment, where baron Zulow came and paid me a visit. He made some very good punch, and we spent the evening together. Among several other things, I took notice to him of the behaviour of the duchess, and her ladies, during the sermon, a behaviour which I confess had greatly surprised me. He smiled, and said, that the ladies

ladies in that country do not apprehend it to be any breach of the sabbath to work at their needle, as it is no servile or mercenary labour : but especially if they are condemned to hear a bad preacher, they think it much better to employ themselves at their needle, or at knotting, than to fall asleep. Whether their opinion be just or not, he would not pretend to say, but this he was sure, that if they conceived they were acting right, their action could not be criminal. It was not my business to enter into a point of casuistry, much less to censure the duchess, and so many fair ladies; so that I urged nothing farther. We went to supper with the duke and duchess, at the usual time, where the conversation turned on England, and its various diversions. The duke seems to retain a lively idea of Vauxhall, which he looks upon as the most elegant place of public entertainment in Europe. Baron Lutzow then turned the conversation, by reading a long account of earthquakes in Martinico, which bringing these phænomena on the carpet, the duke shewed his knowledge was not limited to mechanics and divinity. Such a variety of subjects led us on till it was pretty late, when the duke and duchess dismissed the company, and we retired to our apartments.

The next day I rose early to go to a hunting seat of the duke's, called Frederick's Moor,

and reckoned one of the most delightful spots in this country. My companion was the reverend M. Pallman. We set out about eight, in the duke's chaise, the morning very fine, but piercingly cold. We passed through a little wood, and then crossing a large heath, we reached the Lawitz. This is the largest forest in the duchy of Mecklenburg, being thirty-four miles in circumference, all belonging entirely to the duke. The trees are beech, oak, and alder, but chiefly the latter. By ten we arrived at Frederick's Moor, where we called upon the duke's game-keeper, who gave us a very kind reception. After we had refreshed ourselves with a glass of wine, the game-keeper went to show us the house, which is nothing extraordinary, being mostly of wood. The room above stairs is very pleasant, affording a full view of the grand canal, which runs to Ludewigs-Lust. The prospect would be still more grand, were there an opening on the side of Ludewigs-Lust; but this is obstructed by a chimney. From thence we took a walk to the sluice, where we had a charming view of three great avenues cut through the forest. In each of these is a fine stream, all three joining in the grand canal: the first comes from a neighbouring hill; the second is a cut from the Elde; the third, and principal, is from the lake of Schwerin. Having satisfied our
curiosity

curiosity we set off on our return to Ludewigs-Luft, where we did not arrive till the duke and duchess had dined. Mr. Pallman dined with me in my apartment. In the evening baron Zulow came and chatted with us, till it was time to go to supper.

Those who make pleasure their chief study, would reckon this a most uncouth place, for there are no balls, no assemblies, no cards, or gaming of any sort; the duke being quite averse to all such amusements. As this is his seat of retirement, he has a right to make what regulations he pleases, within the circle of his own family. But the young people especially do not like so much solitude; which makes them call it the *Temple de l'Ennui*. We went to supper pretty late, and I gave the duke and the duchess an account of my expedition, with which they seemed to be well pleased. We began afterwards to talk of manufactures, whence the duke took occasion to commend those of England. The duchess showed me a fine watch, which her majesty had sent her from England, with her picture in miniature; a present indeed worthy of so great a princess. The duke then told me, I should go the next day with baron Lutzow, to see the palace of Neustadt, where his father had resided for some time. I thanked his highness for the honour intended me; upon

which he wished me a-good-night, and we all retired.

The next day baron Lutzow and I set out from Ludewig's-Lust at nine in the morning, to see the town and palace of Neustadt, about ten miles off. We drove through a fine open country, consisting chiefly of arable land, and reached Neustadt by half an hour after ten: we alighted at an apothecary's, where we refreshed ourselves with cakes and wine; for the apothecaries, all over the north of Germany, sell wines by way of cordial. And formerly the same custom obtained in England. In the mean while the castellan was sent for to show us the palace: he is a native of Silesia, and has been long in the service of his highness. After a short exchange of civilities, we took a turn about the town, and then proceeded to the palace.

Neustadt is a small town, agreeably situated on the river Elde, in a fine sporting country. It was formerly a village, known by the name of Lefenitz, a Slavonic term, signifying a wood or forest, to which it is contiguous. In the thirteenth century Gunzelinus II. count of Schwerin, founded a town on this spot, and gave it the name it still retains, which implies a New Town. It suffered greatly by a fire in 1728, and has not as yet been able to recover itself. Such calamities, as I have mentioned to you before, are frequent in this country;
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this very day, a great fire happened in the neighbourhood of Ludewigs-Luft, in a farmhouse belonging to the duke, which did considerable damage, and is said to be owing to an incendiary.

The palace is small, but elegant; it was built by duke Adolphus Frederic I. as a hunting seat. The present duke's father made it his constant residence, till the death of his brother, Charles Leopold, when he went to live at Schwerin. It is almost a quadrangular pile, the architecture pretty regular, and not crowded with ornaments. On each side is a small projection, in the nature of wings; but in the middle of the main body there is an elevation somewhat irregular, which breaks the uniformity of the upper story. The great hall is spacious and handsome; the apartments on the right and left are commodious and well furnished, particularly the room fronting the garden. Here is a large table of massive silver, with two great candlesticks, five feet high, of the same metal, which were removed to Lubeck, together with all the other costly furniture, when the Prussians, in the late war, invaded the duchy of Mecklenburg. The same caution was also used at the castle of Schwerin. The duke's cabinet is very beautiful, and well stocked with natural and artificial curiosities. The rooms adjoining are called the gallery, being full of exquisite paintings. Among

these is a variety of Dutch pieces, by the best masters. There is also a fine collection of family portraits ; that of the present duke, when but two years old, is much admired. The portrait of Charles XII. king of Sweden is a masterpiece; and those of Peter the Great, and the last unfortunate czar, deserve the highest commendation. The hunting pieces must be particularly pleasing to all lovers of field-sports. In short to enumerate the various paintings in this valuable collection, would be a work of too much time in my present situation. Were the pictures of this palace, and those of the castle of Schwerin, placed in one gallery, they would form a collection which might rival those of most of the princes in Germany. The dining-room opens to a balcony, from whence I had a prospect of the river Elde winding round a fruitful plain, and dividing itself into two branches, which form an island laid out into a beautiful garden. The country all round is watered with a number of streams, and charmingly variegated with hills, dales, woods, and lawns. From this fine room we proceeded to the duke's apartments, which are both elegant and convenient, but the furniture seems to be a little upon the decay. The second floor contains lodging-rooms for the several officers and servants of the household. We went upon the leads, where we enjoyed one of the finest
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prospects in Europe; but the station being too airy for me, in this sharp weather, to stand there long, we returned down and took a turn in the garden. It is a beautiful spot of ground, of no large extent, but disposed in the best taste, with variety of avenues, walks, vistas, and some handsome statues. After we had surveyed every thing belonging to the palace, the castellan desired we would take a view of the old castle, on the other side of the river. It is a ruinous building, with a very high tower in a tottering condition. Our conductor told us, that it was here the famous Waldemar II, king of Denmark, was confined by Henry I. count of Schwerin; but I know he is mistaken, for, by undoubted accounts, the above-mentioned monarch was imprisoned in the castle of Danneberg.

Having seen every thing worth notice in Neustadt, we set out for Ludewigs-Luft, at one o'clock. By the way we met a great number of waggons loaded with glass, coming from a place called Buchen, where they have a pretty good manufactory. Their highnesses had dined before our return, so that the cloth was laid in my apartment. Baron Zulow came and inquired how we did after our journey, and brought in a great bowl of strong punch, made of arrack and champagne. The Germans have a notion, that in England we are all fond of punch, and like it very stiff, neither of which is true

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in regard to me ; so that I am often punished where civility is intended. True politeness, according to dean Swift, is the art of making those easy with whom we converse ; for want of understanding which, even those who move in a higher sphere, often give their inferiors pain. After a good deal of chit-chat, baron Zulow took his leave of us, being obliged to set out early the next morning for Schwerin, on account of a law-suit regarding his lady, who is of the noble family of Molcke. He was pleased to tell me he hoped to see me soon in Schwerin, where he should be proud of shewing me every mark of his regard.

We went to supper at the usual hour of nine, and both the duke and duchess were very inquisitive after my journey. I acquainted them with the satisfaction I had received from the survey of the palace of Neustadt, with which they seemed to be not a little pleased. A variety of subjects came upon the carpet, among others, that of etymologies, and I found that the duke was highly delighted with my pointing out the derivation of a multitude of English words from the Saxon. Then followed a digression to boxing and cock-fighting, and their highnesses seemed to be diverted with my account of the matter, which you may judge was but superficial, being no connoisseur in either of those profound topics. The duchess soon after asked me whether

ther I knew madam de Bielke, whom I mentioned to you with great respect in one of my letters from Hamburg : upon my answering in the affirmative, her highness talked a good deal in commendation of that lady : particularly she expatiated on the constancy of her affection for the late Mr. Cope, of Hamburg ; to whom madam de Bielke is said to have been promised in marriage. After the catastrophe of that unfortunate gentleman, she went into mourning, and being asked the reason, she generously made answer, it was because she had loved him. The thread of discourse led her highness to give me an account of an excursion she had made some years ago with the present duke, in his father's reign, and of the manner of passing her time at Aix-la-Chapelle. Here she said she had the pleasure of making acquaintance with admiral Knowles and his lady, having lodged at the same house, and supped with them at their marriage. Many were the fine things her highness said of that amiable pair, but she particularly expressed her regard for the admiral's abilities and genteel accomplishments. From thence a transition was made to the famous king Theodore, and several remarks were made on the hard fate of that unfortunate adventurer. Their highnesses were very much pleased with the following inscription on his tomb, which I happened to remember.

Near

Near this place is interred Theodore king of Corfica, who died in this parish, Dec. 11, 1756, immediately after leaving the King's-bench prison by the benefit of the late act of insolvency: in consequence of which he registered the kingdom of Corfica for the use of his creditors.

The grave, great teacher, to a level brings
Heroes and beggars, galley slaves and kings:
But Theodore this moral learn'd, ere dead,
Fate pour'd its lessons on his living head,
Bestow'd a kingdom, and denied him bread.

As I happened to mention, that I had often visited King Theodore in his confinement, and had the honour of treating his Majesty now and then with a bottle of wine, the duke asked me, whether his misfortunes had rendered him intemperate? I answered, that I believed not, for I had never observed any such symptom. This gave occasion to baron Lutzow to remark, that ebriety is pretty much left off by the Germans; and to this purpose he mentioned a droll answer of a German prince to the late pope, who asking him in a familiar conversation whether his countrymen continued to drink as hard as formerly; the prince made answer, that this beastly custom was grown almost obsolete, except in the ecclesiastical electorates. Thus the evening passed away till the

the usual time of withdrawing, when their highnesses dismissed the company.

The greater part of the day following I spent in taking a final survey of this paradise, where the gardener being reckoned one of the most skilful in his profession; I was glad to have some talk with him. I asked him several questions on horticulture, and among other articles, we happened to fall upon the cultivation of fern, concerning which he gave me the following particulars.

This is a small low vegetable*, with a multitude of sprigs, growing to the length of a foot, or a foot and a half, hard and ligneous, and of a darkish or brown red colour; the leaves stiff and rough, not very different from the tamarisk and cypress, and like them, an ever-green. Its flowers are campanular, of a fine purple, and sometimes white. At the bottom of the flowers, first appears a kind of bud, which afterwards becomes a fruit, nearly oval, containing the seeds, which are very small, in four *capsulae*; the root is woody, and serpentines in the ground. This plant grows on heaths and in woods, and is well known in pharmacy, having a potent medicinal virtue, from its being impregnated with a great deal of salt and oil. Farmers likewise place no small value on it, from the several uses to

* In Latin it is called *erica*.

which

which it is subservient. 1st, From those flowers, in countries where it grows in great plenty, the industrious bee extracts a rich delicious honey*. 2dly, In the want of straw, fern makes very good litter for cattle, and the dung of it is even fatter than that of straw. 3dly, It is good for barren sand hills, binding them by the convolutions of its roots so that the sand is kept from being dispersed, to the detriment of the neighbouring grounds. 4thly, The twigs of it, when young, are wholesome and palatable; and as it both shades and binds the sand, other vegetables grow up under it; so that they contribute to make good sheep-walks. 5thly, It is sown among all kinds of ligneous sets, as it protects from the cold air and frost, such as shoot under them, and are not of so quick a growth. The seed is gathered towards the end of November, and sown in the spring only upon sand; and in these circumstances it shoots up very fast.

I thanked the good gardener for this account of the uses of so common a plant; and having heard that he is famous for the art of watering gardens, I begged he would favour me with his observations on that head,

* The ancients distinguished it by the name of *mel ericeum*; and Pliny takes notice of it in his Natural History.

presuming

presuming that, as you are fond of gardening, you will be pleased to hear something on the subject from this part of the world. He complied with my request, and the remarks he made are these: 1st, Lake, rain, and river water, are certainly the fittest for this purpose; but where these are not to be had, well water must serve. This, instead of being used cold, as it comes out of the well, must stand some hours in the sun, to mellow it, and abate the chilness. 2dly, If the garden be joined to the house, let the rain water be saved, by means of a spout, or spouts, in proper places, discharging themselves into large receptacles; and these, when full, may be emptied into vessels placed near them. 3dly, Dung water serves best for watering trees newly set, and such vegetables as are not much subject to be preyed on by earthfleas, (for these, after such watering, multiply amazingly) as rosemary, pinks, pumpkins, cucumbers, jonquils, and gilliflowers; especially when the latter are come to some growth. On this account many florists make an artificial dung-lye-water; putting into a tub sheeps-treddles with water; and, after shaking and stirring it thoroughly, leave it a while in the sun. As to what some say of these waters improving the colours, and making flowers streaked, he says it never answered with him. 4thly, The plentiful watering of cole plants every day, is the only sure method

against the earth-flea; only this must be forborne in the evening, when a frosty night is apprehended. 5thly, In night-frosts, by which cabbage plants have sometimes suffered in May, after being covered with bushes to secure them both from the fowls and the frost, (here he supposes the ground not to be well dunged) the surest way for preserving them, is to water them a little at sun-rising. At first indeed they look as if candied, and bend still more under the ice; but this being soon thawed off by the ascending sun, they gradually lift their heads, and recover. 6thly, At the end of May, or the beginning of June, the porraceous, and fellery plants, will be greatly benefited by plentiful waterings every day, even in the hottest sunshine. 7thly, In transplanting all cabbage-lettuce, porraceous, and fellery plants, and all summer vegetables, the best way is to make a hole with a dibble, or the hand-hoe, pouring water into it, and not on the plant itself, the latter being rather detrimental; but cole, and gillyflowers, and especially white-cabbage, and cauliflowers, for preventing the earth-flies, must, in a drought, be plentifully watered, besides filling the hole with water. 8thly, If any thing has been sowed in a continued drought, without waiting for the rain, so that the seed is in danger of being spoiled, which sometimes happens to the carrot, sown at Whisuntide,

Whitsuntide, and to the turnip and winter cabbage, sown about St. James's day, the best way for cherishing it is to water the ground plentifully, and cover it with green bushes; and, when you have repeated this watering once a day, and the plants have shot up, you may throw aside the bushes, and leave the plants to nature for their farther destiny. 9thly. In transplanting summer-vegetables, as likewise in setting of rosemary, jonquils, and gilliflowers, which require so much watering, it is farther necessary to put before every plant, southwards, for the space of ten days or a fortnight, a piece of board, or pipe-stave, as a fence against the excessive heat of the sun, which, with all your diligent watering, would ruin your plants. 10thly. It will greatly benefit the transplanted cabbage-lettuce, to water it in the very heat of the day, directly in the middle of the plant, as causing it quickly to cabbage. In the month of August this method will not answer, by reason that from the excessive heat, the plant is hastily running into seed; but in September it may be resumed. 11thly. In a great drought, and especially if the ground be any thing sandy, carrots sometimes are seen to decay, when in a very promising state, so that they turn brown: the best way for reviving them is to water them towards evening. 12thly. If after a bed is sown, and especially in a stiff and clayey ground, a violent rain should come

on, and the parching heat of the sun as it were incrustate it, before the seed is sprung up, it must be gently watered every evening till the appearance of the plant. This is far better than raking it, which tears up great numbers of seeds that are already set. 13thly. As in a continuance of drought, grass and weeds soon cover both the paths and beds in a garden, and the servants, to avoid the weeding-hook and spade, plead the hardness of the path, and the difficulty of pulling up the weeds, the best way to obviate these excuses is gently to water both the paths and beds: thus, within an hour or two, no objection can be made against the work, and it will go on very speedily. 14thly. Watering is the more necessary in those gardens which lye on a slope, as more of the rain-water runs off than is imbibed; in those also of a southern exposure; likewise in those which in a long drought are not sheltered by any standards; and farther, if the soil be quite dry to the depth of an inch or two. 15thly, For such trees as give blossoms, but without their improving into fruit; it is accounted a good way, in their blossoming-time, to dig a little trench round them, and every day, or every other day, to pour into it half a pail of water, till their blossoms are set. He says he never lost a single tree by this way, though it is commonly thought to be hurtful to them. It is especially of great service to garden-hips,

hips, and rose-apples. 16thly, Watering is of service to all transplanted feminal vegetables, at the time of their blossoming, particularly in a drought. 17thly, That in cool, or cold weather, or when the earth is still sufficiently moist, watering must be let alone, speaks of itself; otherwise cole will be brown and blue, and the other vegetables yellow, and the growth of them checked, as we see happens in violent and long rains.

When he had finished these observations, it was almost the hour of dinner; and as I was going to return him thanks, he told me there was yet time enough to add a word or two concerning ranunculuses. Then, without giving me time to reply, "It is a strange rule, said he, among many florists, that ranunculuses are to be watered only till they begin to shoot a stalk. I know by repeated experience, that they can bear a great deal of moisture; and that if the stalk, after beginning to shoot, be not watered, should June prove hot and dry, it will perish before it flowers; nay, that the bulb set in a loose earth in the usual manner, will sink like many bulbous roots, which have not been set deep enough; that is, will strike its root an inch deeper, and at the end of it there will be a new, but a very small and sickly bulb. Now this inconveniency may be prevented, partly by careful watering, and likewise about the beginning of April, instead of

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sticking every bulb into loose earth with a dibble, which is the common method, make a little hole four inches deep, stamp the bottom of it hard, and line it with some lime. (Others, which answers very well, put a piece of tile at the bottom.) This hole is to be filled an inch deep with common sand, and place the ranunculus bulbs at a proper distance; fill the remainder loosely with a mixture of coarse sand and mould; then gently water the ranunculuses, and continue this from time to time, till their flowering season is over."

No sooner had he concluded this dissertation, than the sprightly trumpet gave the signal of approaching dinner. I thanked the good gardener for his kind information, and bethought myself, at the same time, of the old proverb, *sæpe etiam est olitor valde opportuna locutus*. During dinner, their highnesses asked me, as usual, how I had amused myself in the forenoon; and I gave them an account of what had passed in the garden. They were exceedingly well pleased that I could divert myself in this solitude, as they called it; and hoped I should find a variety of new scenes to occupy me for some time. But as I had now fully satisfied my curiosity, and rude winter's approach was continually in my mind, I signified to their highnesses, that I intended to return to Schwerin the day following. My reasons were so very cogent, that, notwithstanding the desire they had
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to protract my stay, they acquiesced in my resolution. The duke told me, that, since I must depart, he would order his coach to carry me to Schwerin, whenever I thought proper. The discourse then was changed, and I happened to talk of the medals, which had been lately dug up in the neighbourhood of Malchow, and purchased, as I mentioned to you in a former letter, by my good friend M. Pistorius. The duke said he had been apprized of the affair, and was very much displeased the medals had not been brought to him, being a regality due to the sovereign; but, as they had fallen into such good hands as those of the learned and ingenious syndic, he had forborne taking any measures for the recovery of them. After dinner, their highnesses proposed an airing, the duke in his chaise, and the duchess, with her ladies, on horseback. They were well mounted, with their cocked hats, bag-wigs, and feathers; but what heightened the scene was, that the duchess and her ladies rode straddling, a sight which surprised me very much, merely because it was new; and novelty, you know, is the mother of surprize.

The duke and duchess were no sooner gone, than baron Lutzow, and I, went to see the drawings and prints, at M. Findorff's, the duke's engraver, where we amused ourselves a considerable part of the evening. From

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thence we adjourned to my apartment, and conversed on various subjects till supper-time. The baron told me, that he and his lady intended to set out, in a day or two, for Schwerin; and as baron Zulow would also be there, he hoped they should have it in their power to make me pass away the time more agreeably than I had done at Ludewigs-Lust. It is impossible for words to paint the politeness and affability of those noblemen. They often expressed their apprehensions, that the time would hang heavy upon my hands for want of public diversions. In vain did I endeavour to persuade them, that those diversions were no longer my taste; and that the honour of conversing with persons of their rank and abilities was a higher satisfaction to me, which it really was, than all the concerts, or assemblies in Europe; still they imagined I spoke out of complaisance, and that a stranger must inevitably fall into an *ennui* (a word they often repeated to me) unless buoyed up with scenes of splendor and tumultuous festivity. We went to supper at the usual time; and in the course of conversation the duke promised to order his painter, M. Matthieu, to draw the portraits of the princes of the line of Schwerin, according to my desire, for the second volume of my Vandalia; and as the design of the castle of Ludewigs-Lust was not yet finished by M. Findorff, he said he would send it in a few days

days after me to Schwerin. We stood chatting some time after supper, when I took my leave of their highnesses, expressing the profound sense I retained, and should ever retain, of their great goodness; and they graciously wished me a prosperous journey. The duchess, as she withdrew, smiled, and said, I will make use of the same terms to you as mademoiselle Rauchar did at Strelitz, viz. *Kommen sie bald wieder*, that is, make haste back again. After their highnesses had withdrawn, I paid my compliments to the noblemen and ladies, and retired to my apartment. I had not been there above a few minutes, when baron Lutzow came in, and told me he was sent by the duke to make me a few presents at my departure, as a testimony of the regard his highness had for me, and the satisfaction he had received from my visit. These were, a gold medal of the late duke his father, in an agate snuff-box set in gold; and an agate watch, with a handsome gold chain. On the face of the medal is this inscription, *Christ. Ludovic. D. G. Dux Mecklenburg*. On the reverse are the insignia of the orders of the elephant and St. Andrew, with the arms of Mecklenburg crowned, dated 1753. The legend, *Per angusta ad angusta*. The agates were dug out of the mountains of Mecklenburg, a circumstance the duke apprehended would be the more agreeable to me

me, as being the produce of a country, for which I had testified so much regard. I received those princely gifts with suitable expressions of gratitude for the honour done me, and desired the baron to present my acknowledgments to his highness: at the same time I paid all due compliments to that nobleman for his civility. After he was gone, I prepared to undress, when a droll scene happened, which surprized me at first, and afterwards contributed to my diversion. A tall rustic fellow bolted into my room very abruptly; and, without saying by your leave, or asking me the least question, looked up the chimney. I desired to know what he wanted; but he made no other answer than that he was about his business. Presently he went to the door, and called in another fellow, dirtier and blacker than himself, whom I guessed to be a chimney-sweeper. I then asked him, if that were not the case; he said it was, and that he must instantly sweep the chimney. I thought it a very odd time for such a business, and was for having it deferred till the next day, when I should be gone to Schwerin. The fellow replied very bluntly, he could not put it off on any account; and that the duke had commanded it, for fear of fire, which happened so often in their country. All I could say was speaking to the post; and I was obliged

liged to acquiesce. I therefore walked very coolly about the room till the affair was over, when the fellow went away without saying a word; then I locked and double-bolted the door after him, laughing at the whimsicalness of the adventure.

This morning I rose pretty early, and breakfasted with baron Lutzow, to whom I told the sullen intrusion of the chimney-sweeper. He laughed excessively, but at the same time made an apology for the rudeness and ignorance of the fellow. I shall set off to-day for Schwerin, at noon, in the duke's coach, in company with M. Wickenstock, a surgeon belonging to the household. Baron Pentze, one of the gentlemen of the bedchamber, came a while ago to tell me, that the duke and duchess once more wished me a good journey, and desired I would take some refreshment in my apartment before I set out. I desired the baron would repeat my most humble acknowledgments for all their highnesses' favours, and am now going to sit down to dinner. The weather is still fine over head, but every day more cold; so that I shall be glad when I get back to England. But I must stay some days, according to my promise, at Schwerin: this will bring in winter, an uncomfortable season for travelling through Westphalia. I have been enervated, I own, by the
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gratifications heaped on me at the court of Strelitz ; so that I almost shudder at the rigours of a winter's journey. But why do I torment myself or you, my dear friend, with the apprehension of distant dangers ? Is it not far better to enjoy the present moment, and leave futurity to Providence ? Have I not age and experience sufficient to know

The strange vicissitudes of human fate,
Still altering, never in a steady state :
Good after ill, and after pain delight,
Alternate, like the scenes of day and night.
Since every man who lives is born to die,
And none can boast sincere felicity ;
With equal mind what happens let us bear,
Not joy nor grieve too much, for things beyond our care :

Like pilgrims, to th' appointed place we tend,
The world's an inn, and death the journey's end :

Ev'n kings but play, and when their part is done,

Some other, worse or better, mount the throne.

DRYDEN.

Away then with all gloomy apprehensions :
I shall endeavour henceforward to cheer my mind with gay ideas, to gild the toils of life with pleasing hopes, and to

Thank

Thank the gracious gods for what they give,
Possess my mind, and whilst I live, to live.

I know you will laugh at this rhapsody;
however, it is an amusement to me, and my
scheme in travelling is to amuse myself as much
as I can.

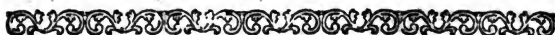
Each day's a mistress unenjoy'd before,
Like travellers, we're pleas'd with seeing
more.

Adieu, my dear friend, believe me it is no
rhapsody when I assure you that I please my-
self with the hopes of seeing you again in Lon-
don; and of reviving those scenes of social con-
verse, which I may justly rank among the most
refined pleasures that can be enjoyed by,

Dear Sir,

Yours, &c.

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LETTER XX.

Schwerin, November 28, 1766.

DEAR SIR,

I Concluded my last in a moralizing strain, just as I was going to dinner. A very odd time, you will say, when I had such important business on my hands. The truth is, Ludewigs-Lust is so retired and solemn a place, that it naturally leads one to a train of meditation. The greater part of the time I was there, I found myself in a kind of reverie, and had often in my mind these soothing lines of Guarini :

*Care felve beate
E voi solinghe e taciturni orrori,
Di riposo e di pace alberghi veri.*

But the scene is altered ; I have been in such a continual hurry and dissipation ever since, that I have scarce had time to think, much less to contemplate.

I set out from Ludewigs-Lust the 21st instant, at noon, with M. Wickenstock, the surgeon. He

is a native of Prussia, and a pleasant companion. The road, at first, was over a heath, and on our left Ludewigs-lust park, which extends this way a German mile and a half. We soon got to the great forest of Lewitz, which reaches as far as the town of Criwitz. After we had passed through a small village, we arrived, about two o'clock, at a public house, called Oer Kruck, half way to Schwerin. Here my companion proposed to alight, in order to empty a bottle of Burgundy, which baron Pentze had ordered to be put into the coach for our refreshment. The wine infused fresh spirits into my friend, when he amused me with several droll stories: among others, he mentioned the simplicity of an old woman in the electorate of Hanover; whose daughter having been got with child in the late war by a Frenchman, the greatest concern the mother seemed to be under was, that the child, being the offspring of a Frenchman, would not understand German. We got into the coach again at three, and passing through a fine corn country, with a view of Criwitz on the left, we arrived at length at the wood which reaches to Schwerin. From thence we came to the place called the Star, remarkable for a number of openings, which afford so many fine vistas or prospects, and by five o'clock we reached our journey's end. The coachman drove us to my
quarters

quarters in the Martinese's hof, where my companion took his leave of me. I had been scarce fat down, when the court-harbinger, who had been feveral times to enquire whether I was arrived, came to invite me to fupper. I went at nine o'clock, and prince Lewis and the princeffes welcomed me to Schwerin. I fat next to princefs Ulrica, at her highnefs's defire, that ſhe might have the better opportunity of converſing with me in Engliſh. The converſation turned chiefly upon what I had ſeen and obſerved during my ſtay at Ludewigs-Luſt, and their highneſſes ſeemed greatly pleaſed with the recital of my ſeveral excuſions. About eleven, the company broke up, and I retired to my lodging, which is very near the palace. M. Lutzow, the ſon of the marſhal of the court, ſaw me home, attended by a ſervant with a lanthorn fixed to a long pole, a conveniency I remember to have ſeen at Hamburg.

The next morning after breakfast the court-harbinger came to invite me to dinner; and this has been conſtantly the practice ſince my being in Schwerin. I waited ſoon after on prince Lewis, to deſire admittance to the archives; in order to ſearch for ſuch records or papers as might be of any uſe to my hiſtory. The prince told me that department belonged to M. Schmidt, the privy-counſellor; and he would ſend
baron

baron Drieberg, with me to that gentleman, who he was sure would give me all the assistance and lights I could desire. Accordingly the baron and I went in the prince's coach, to wait upon M. Schmidt, who received us with all the politeness imaginable. Unluckily he happened to be ill of a flow fever, otherwise he would have accompanied me himself to the archives. He is a gentleman of a middling stature, inclinable to corpulency, of a dark complexion, but a very amiable countenance. He was once professor of law in the university of Rostock, and has been raised by his merit to his present high station. His share in the regency is very considerable, from his great experience and knowledge; no man being better versed than himself, in the history and laws of his country. Count Bassewitz, the chief minister, has the highest regard and affection for him, and these two act in every thing with the greatest harmony. I am sorry count Bassewitz happens to be at Hamburg; but I am told he is daily expected, so that possibly I shall have the pleasure of seeing that nobleman, before my departure. But to return to M. Schmidt, upon asking him what was the oldest document they had in the archives? he told me there was none more ancient than that of the foundation of the church of Schwerin, by Henry the Lion, duke of Saxony and Bavaria, in the year 1170. As he

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was indisposed, I took leave of him very soon, and he sent his servant with me to the archives, directing the principal officer to shew me every thing I wanted.

The archives are kept in the castle, on the ground floor, left hand, after you pass the chapel. I was received with great complaisance by the archivarius, who shewed me the several rooms, where the public records are disposed in excellent order. He told me that I was welcome to see any book, paper, or document, I pleased; and that if I desired any thing to be transcribed, the clerks should do it for me. I returned him many thanks, and told him, that I wanted only to see such documents and MS. as related to the history of Mecklenburg. Upon this he began with telling me, that their most ancient document was, as M. Schmidt had mentioned, that of the foundation of the church of Schwerin. He then ordered one of the clerks to produce the record, which is well preserved, and dated 1171. After this he shewed me several curiosities relating to the history of Mecklenburg; the principal of which are: 1st, The original MS. copy of Kirchberg's History of Mecklenburg, beautifully illuminated, in 1378. 2. A large folio, containing the portraits of all the sovereigns of the house of Mecklenburg, from Anthyrius I. to Albert II. son of Magnus, married to Anne, Margravine of Brandenburg. 3.

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A copy of Marshal's History of Mecklenburg, finely illuminated. 4. The original of Rixner's History of Mecklenburg, with the coats of arms, 1530. 5. The original MS. of Latomus's History of the Noblesse of Mecklenburg. 6. A MS. copy of Chemnitz's History of Mecklenburg, in two very large volumes folio, from the earliest times to Sigismund Augustus, in 1623. This work was never printed; the dukes, (for what reason he could not tell me) do not chuse it should be published. Chemnitz's History in M. Westphal is quite a different work. 7. A MS. diplomatarium of the dome of Guf-trow, in 1520. Such were the principal articles, and of these I could only take a cursory view at that time; but I have been there every day since, with liberty to transcribe whatever I think may be any way conducive to the improvement of my History. The use I have made of this indulgence is considerable, and has amply recompenced me for my trouble.

I busied myself here in literary researches, till I was called off by the trumpet's loud clangor, the usual signal of dinner. The company this day was numerous, being about thirty covers. Besides the prince and princesses, there were several ladies, Miss Wurmb, Mademoiselle Chambeaux, Madam de Lutzow, Madam de Zulow, and some others. The gentlemen were the same as I saw before, besides baron Forstener, baron Zulow, and baron Lutzow, who

was come from Ludewigs-Luft that very morning. I gave you the present state of the ducal family, in a former letter; and having now made some acquaintance with the most distinguished persons at court, I shall endeavour to draw a sketch of their characters, beginning with the duke and duchess, whom I left at Ludewigs-Luft.

Frederick II. duke of Mecklenburg Schwerin, is a prince above the middle size, very well shaped, of a thin habit of body, and fresh complexion *. He has an oval face, pitted with the small-pox, an open fore-head, black eyes, and the other features not irregular. His deportment is grave, his mien serene, being a real transcript of his mind. No prince is more easy of access; or behaves to his inferiors with more politeness and good nature. His manners are so engaging, as seldom fail to conciliate the affection and respect of those who have the honour to converse with him. In his youth he visited the principal courts in Europe, where he imbibed a superior taste of politeness and elegance. He speaks several languages with ease and correctness, and delivers himself on most subjects with great clearness and solidity. He rides very well, and dances gracefully; but of late years has pretty much disused both these exercises. His abilities, both

* As for the age of the princes and princesses of this line, see p. 232.

natural and acquired, are considerable. Few men have a more clear and quick comprehension, or a stronger and more lively imagination. His understanding has been enlarged by a diligent application to most branches of solid and useful learning: but his favourite study is natural philosophy, and mechanics, in which he is really eminent. Nothing escapes his penetration, nor his memory, which is very retentive.

Of all princes, he is the least fond of pomp and outward show. Even in transacting business he affects no state, but endeavours to remove, as much as possible, all constraint and formalities. He sees very little company, except the stated times for business, when the meanest subject has access. They who approach his person, allow him to be the most indulgent prince in the whole world, conversing with those about him in terms of the most endearing condescension and decent familiarity. He knows that princely authority is supported by dignity of conduct, and not by haughtiness of deportment: he knows that princes must sometimes bring themselves down to a level with their subjects, according to that beautiful maxim of Pliny, *Cui nihil ad augendum fastigium superest, hoc uno crescere potest, si seipsum submittat, securus magnitudinis suæ**.

The duke professes the Lutheran religion, in which he is most sincere and devout, yet with-

* Plin. in pan.

out the least tincture of superstition, or bigotry. So far is he from being priest-ridden, that even the first of the clergy, however eminent for learning and piety, are not admitted to his table. He pays them due respect in their proper department, but does not suffer them to intermeddle in state-affairs. His sense of religion appears more particularly in his devout and constant attendance on divine service; and in his extensive and almost unbounded charity. Even his extravagancies, as some stile them, in gardening, are calculated for the benefit of the lower class of people, employing such a number of hands. In the late war, when, upon the invasion of the Prussians, he retired to Lubeck, being followed by a great number of his distressed subjects, he provided for their subsistence. His tenants who had been plundered by the enemy were forgiven their arrears of rent, and some he even indemnified for their losses. He has been heard to say, that it would be happy for mankind, if all sovereigns, in some part of their life, experienced the pressures of poverty; for he who has not been distressed himself, cannot so well sympathize with the sufferings of others.

His manner of life is pretty uniform. He breakfasts a-bed, and rises very late, viz. about eleven: he dresses and shaves himself, never wears a night-gown, but continues the

whole day in the cloaths he put on in the morning; and has seldom more than one suit in wear throughout the year, which is blue trimmed with gold. But while he avoids all foppery and extravagance, he takes care not to give into the other extreme, that sordid parsimony, which debases the dignity of princes, and renders them odious and contemptible to their subjects. His highness walks every morning in his garden before dinner, attended only by a gentleman of the bed-chamber. Sometimes he takes the air in a chaise, driving at a prodigious rate. When there is no strange company at Ludewigs-Luft, he generally dines by himself; but the whole time I was there, he dined in public with the duchess. In his diet he is very temperate, seldom drinking but at meals, and then not quite a pint of wine. His only passion is for gardening, a passion innocent in its nature, and the favourite amusement of some of the greatest princes, both of ancient and modern times. In the afternoon he retires to his cabinet, where he does business with the ministers of the respective departments, who come from Schwerin to attend his orders.

The care of government is his chief study, and to this he postpones every other consideration. In the choice of his ministers he is most circumspect and judicious, employing none but such as are of undoubted abilities and integrity. No prince has a greater regard

for learning, as appears very plainly by his preferring men of letters to considerable posts, and by his settling such liberal salaries on the professors of his new university of Butzow. He sups by himself, and sits up generally till between two and three in the morning. These silent hours he dedicates partly to public business, and partly to the study of religion and philosophy. He is never seen in an undress. He has no guards, but only a few invalids, who do duty before the palace. A prince, he says, should behave to his people as a parent to his children; then he is sure of their affection, which is his best security. Therefore, he detests that maxim, *oderint dum metuant*; for he whom many fear, must be afraid of many. The love of his subjects he values; but their fear would give him concern, as generally productive of hatred. His virtues are all of the solid kind; he is religious without fanaticism, gracious without meanness; frugal without parsimony; and generous without profusion and extravagance. A good prince, he says, should always have these maxims present to his mind, that he rules over men like himself; that he is to rule according to law; and that he is not to rule for ever, meaning, that he is to be accountable hereafter for his conduct. He should therefore endeavour to set a pattern to his people, and to attract regard, more by the purity of his life, than by the

lustre of his dignity. Accordingly, the manners of this good prince are most exemplary; such as would adorn private life, as well as the highest station. To conclude, if it be true, that he only is qualified to command others, who commands himself, this prince is absolutely worthy of superiority; and as he delights in the study and practice of wisdom, his people surely must be happy, according to this maxim of Plato, that then indeed the world is blessed, when philosophers are raised to government, or governors become philosophers.

Louisa Frederica, duchess of Mecklenburg Schwerin, is tall and genteel in her person, and fresh complexioned; her face is oval, her eyes azure, and every other feature extremely regular. Though past the bloom of youth, she is still possessed of personal charms, sufficient to conciliate love and esteem. In her physiognomy, there is a good deal of the cast of the house of Brandenburg, from which her highness is descended, by her mother. Her aspect is majestic, her deportment noble and grave, her address quite easy and engaging. Few ladies have more politeness, better understanding, and greater dignity of sentiment. She is not a little fond of magnificence, which she elegantly adapts to occasions; but her liberality is indeed very diffusive. In conversation she shews her judgment, talking little, but always to the purpose. The French language

guage is quite familiar to her highness; she has a fine air in dancing, and indeed excels in every other accomplishment becoming her sex. Though she has a natural propensity to gaiety and diversions, she shows her good sense in conforming to the duke's temper, and spending her days, as it were, in retirement. Every day, except Sunday, she rides out with her maids of honour, dressed, as I mentioned to you before, in Amazonian habits. This exercise keeps her in good health and spirits. By way of variety, she passes three summer months at Hamburg, where she frequents all the public diversions. Here she has purchased a fine palace, open to all foreigners of distinction; and lives with the splendor suitable to her birth and rank.

Prince Lewis, the duke's brother, is of a middling stature, well made, with a round face, regular features, and brown complexion. The goodness of his temper, and the generosity of his disposition, make those about him happy. State and dignity he does not seem to affect, being as much an enemy to pride as the duke his brother. He is easy of access, extremely polite, very charitable and humane, and ready to do kindnesses to such as are really deserving. His inclination naturally leads him to parties of pleasure, but not so as to commit any excess. His accomplishments are such as become his high rank.

rank. He dances and fits a horse well; is fond of music, and, as I mentioned to you before, performs very well on the violin; having a concert twice a week in the palace. He is also a collector of coins and medals, and has a very fine cabinet of all sorts, but especially those of his own country. In public affairs he does not seem to intermeddle, but lives content on his appanage, and in the greatest harmony with the duke his brother. In short, few princes can have a more amiable character, being an affectionate husband, a fond parent, a loving brother, and a dutiful subject.

Princess Charlotte Sophia, his consort, is middle sized, very genteelly shaped, and of a noble air and deportment. Her face is oval, with a large forehead, black sparkling eyes, and engaging countenance. Though at first she appears grave, she soon puts on a gracious smile, and converses with all the ease and cheerfulness imaginable. No princess can have more genteel accomplishments; few make so fine a figure in dancing; and for singing, her voice and manner would be applauded in a public performance. Music indeed is her only amusement, and as for every thing else, she lives like one quite weaned from the world. She has a concert at home, but never plays at cards, and goes to no routs or assemblies.

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The education of the young princess, her daughter, takes up her thoughts, and prevents her from falling into the fashionable mode of killing the time with cards and dancing. In short, she lives retired in the midst of the court, occupied in fulfilling the duties of her station, and in works of piety and charity, so that her life may be said to be one continued course of virtue.

You may remember that this happy pair have two children, a prince and princess. The young prince Frederic Francis, I have not seen, being lately gone to his studies at Lausanne: he is said to be one of the handsomest young princes in Germany, and of a most promising disposition *. His sister, Sophia Frederica, is one of the sweetest and most beautiful young princesses I ever beheld. Her shape is delicate and fine; she already dances with a good grace, and speaks French very prettily. Good humour and good dispositions may be seen in her countenance. Upon the whole, she promises fair to be one of the most accomplished princesses in Europe.

Princess Ulrica, the Duke's elder sister, is rather of an under size, a disadvantage overbalanced by her dignity of aspect, and sublimity of sentiment. Her face is perfectly round,

* He has been lately inoculated, at Lausanne, for the small-pox, of which he happily recovered.

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her forehead large, her eye-brows auburn, her eyes cærulean, her other features regular and pleasing, with a most delicate fair complexion. In her younger days she must have been a perfect beauty, and even at present her charms are scarce on the decline. Her highness, I am told, was intended for the late king of Denmark; but by some accident the match went off. Her mien, her carriage, her air, are noble and engaging, such as inspire, at the same time, reverence and affection. She understands the Italian tongue, and speaks French with facility and elegance. She applies herself also to the English language, in which she has already made a considerable progress. The charms of her mind are not inferior to those of her person. Possessed of a lively imagination, she has withal a just discernment and knowledge of the world. It is impossible to excel her in sweetness of temper and simplicity of manners; the only lasting charms of the fair sex. There is a constant smile on her lips, which prefaces her talk; and this, however sensible, is only a repetition of what has been expressed by her countenance. Disengaged from all trifles, she is fond of reading good books, and of conversing with men of learning, who have seen the world. She assumes no state on account of her rank, but talks to those who are about her as equals. It is impossible, indeed, to express the affability of her

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her behaviour; none but those who have seen and conversed with her, can have a true idea of it. Yet there is a dignity in her looks that commands respect, even from those whom she treats with familiarity. She is generous and magnificent, and has a noble heart, becoming her high birth. Indeed there are few princesses of a more sublime and more elegant turn of mind. In piety and religion she may justly be called the pattern of her sex, being most punctual in her attendance on divine service, most exemplary in her devotion, and most sincere in the discharge of every christian duty. Yet her piety is no way disfigured by a melancholy gloom, or austerity of aspect; but the rays of chearfulness and composure pierce through her devotions. Her charity, her humanity, almost exceed the bounds of her fortune, which is very considerable, having had a most liberal appanage settled on her by the late duke, her father. She lends the most gracious ear to those who ask any favours of her, and is sure to answer them in the kindest and most obliging manner. She wishes it were in her power to serve all who apply to her for assistance, and is under the greatest concern when she finds herself unable to comply with their request. I have been told, that she has often shed tears, in hearing of the distresses of particular objects, when her finances were exhausted.

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by repeated charities, and it was no longer in her power to relieve them. So great, so good, so amiable a princess may surely be stiled the *delight of human-kind*, studying to do good not less than the celebrated prince who first obtained that glorious title.

Princess Amelia, the duke's younger sister, has been so very ill ever since my being at this court, that I have not had the honour of paying my respects to her highness. Her indisposition is said to be of a very dangerous nature, a disorder in her bowels, which keeps her in excruciating pains, and confines her mostly to her bed. Her general character is very amiable, behaving with patience and constancy under her infirmities, and with generosity and goodness to all her attendants.

Baron Zulow, the great cup-bearer, is tall and genteel in his person, and of very regular features. His aspect is sweet and engaging, his deportment becoming the man of quality. Few noblemen have more amiable accomplishments. He speaks French with great ease, and expresses himself on most subjects with justness and propriety. He may be truly stiled a pattern of good breeding: such affability, such good temper, such readiness to oblige, and so much good sense, seldom meet in the same person. He is descended from one of the noblest families in this country. His father was major-general
Zulow,

Zulow, colonel of a regiment of foot, and commandant of Schwerin. He died the first of April, 1766, after having served the duke, his sovereign, fifty-three years. The present baron seems to be about three or four and thirty, and married, not long ago, a widow lady, of the family of Molcke, with whom he had a considerable fortune. Madam de Zulow is a tall handsome lady, very sensible, and possessed of every genteel accomplishment.

Baron Lutzow is of a middling stature, a very handsome face, fair complexion, strong built, and inclinable to corpulency. He seems not to be forty; but his experience, good sense, and knowledge, are superior to his years. He is generous, frank, and open, and of a most cheerful disposition. With all the vivacity and fire of youth, he has the solidity and consideration of maturer age. His politeness, his graceful dignity, his attention to decorum, shew his knowledge of the world. Few noblemen have so well improved their time; he is master of several languages, has read the best books on the law of nations and politics, is perfectly well versed in history, and most branches of polite learning. No wonder so accomplished a person has been so often employed by his prince in negotiations, in which he has acquitted himself with honour. The baron has been in a public character, at
several

several courts of Germany, as well as in Denmark and Russia, at which last court he made a considerable figure. He is but lately returned, as I mentioned to you before, from executing a commission to their Danish majesties, at Altena. Not long ago, he married the daughter of baron Dricberg, a most agreeable young lady, who seems formed to complete his happiness. She is about five and twenty, of a middle size, round face, fresh complexion, auburn hair, most regular features, and extremely well shaped. Her accomplishments, good sense, good breeding, and good-nature, would adorn the highest station. In short, her person is an assemblage of charms, and she may be truly stiled one of the greatest ornaments of the court of Schwerin.

Miss Wurmb, maid of honour to princess Charlotte, and concerned in the education of the young princess Sophia, is a native of Saxony, and of a very illustrious descent. She is tall and genteel in her person, round faced, and of a brown complexion. Though she cannot be called a beauty, she is possessed of charms far surpassing those of outward form. Few ladies have a better share of understanding, and none can have more temper and good humour. She is affability itself, ever chearful, ever complacent, with a perpetual smile on her countenance.

tenance. She sings and dances with a good grace, and plays very well on the harpsichord: but her amusements consist chiefly in reading, and in adorning her mind with refined knowledge. She speaks both French and Italian, and is now learning English along with princess Ulrica, who seems to be very fond of this young lady; and, on the other hand, Miss Wurmb's chief ambition is to answer the affection of so good a princess.

The count de Flohr is gentleman to princess Ulrica: he is of a most elegant form, tall and well shaped, an oval face, black lively eyes, Roman nose, and dark complexion. His aspect, his air, his deportment, all correspond with the dignity of his birth. He is perfectly well versed in the forms and ceremonies of courts, having served several German princes before he came hither, and among the rest the duke of Mecklenburg Strelitz. By birth he is a Saxon, and was some time at Copenhagen, where his uncle, general Prætorius, resided. There he had the misfortune of being a considerable sufferer by the knavery of a Jew, whom he had intrusted with great part of his fortune. In politeness and good breeding it is impossible to excel him. But he is not only the fine gentleman; he is also the man of sense,
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the scholar, and the philosopher. With such amiable qualities he must of course conciliate the esteem and respect of all his acquaintance.

Baron Forstener, steward of the household, is a native of Wurtemberg, and was invited hither by the duchess, who is a princess of that family. He is a tall stout man, fresh complexioned, oval face, and dark complexion; but he is a little hard-featured, and pitted with the small-pox. He is of a gay open disposition, polite, generous, and magnificent, keeps a very good table, and is glad to see his friends with true German liberality. He has no sort of pride, loves pleasures and good cheer, but not so as to neglect business. He is a man of good parts, and a very sound lawyer; for which reason he is generally employed as one of the duke's commissioners at the provincial diet, from whence he is but just returned. In his several functions, he gives great satisfaction; so that he is beloved and unenvied, though a favourite of the sovereign.

There are many other amiable persons of both sexes at this court, but I have not sufficient time to delineate their several characters. Neither, indeed, have I had leisure and opportunity to make such acquaintance with so illustrious a group, as would enable me to sketch, much less to finish, all their portraits. For it is not with me here as at Strelitz, where I visited

and was personally acquainted with every body of any rank : this is a much larger field ; and my stay has been too short to form a gallery of paintings ; besides, most of my time, both here and at Ludewigs-Luft, has been spent in conversing with their serene highnesses. I shall now finish this long digression, and return to the scene of my dining at court, which was on Saturday the 22d instant.

The conversation chiefly consisted in inquiries after my rambles about Ludewigs-Luft, and my opinion of the beauties of that delicious place. The account I gave was such as gave them pleasure ; for no people in the world seem to take a greater delight in consulting a stranger's amusement. After dinner princess Ulrica ordered her coach to carry me to a fine deer park, called the Werder, in the neighbourhood of this city, and desired the marshal of the court, baron Lutzow, to accompany me. The Werder is not above three miles distant from hence ; it is properly an island, joined to the main-land by a wooden-bridge. It is certainly a most delightful park, well stocked with all sorts of game. There is an eminence in the middle, with a gentle ascent ; and on the top, a very good house, from whence I had a delightful prospect of all the fine country around, and of the lake of Schwerin. Over-against this is another park, called the *Kaninchen Werder**,

*der**, in an island on the Schwerin lake, to which the garrison of Schwerin retired upon the approach of the Prussians, in the late war. There they maintained themselves against the enemy, till the latter evacuated the country. We drove round the park, and came to a precipice on the banks of the lake, twenty-four feet high, from whence one of the duke's pages jumped down, not long ago, out of a frolick, as the marshal assured me, without receiving any hurt. Night approaching, we returned to Schwerin. I then paid a visit to baron Zulow, and chatted with him a good part of the evening. From thence we adjourned to court, and found the prince and princesses going to supper. The company were very merry; princess Ulrica talked now and then a little English, and after supper we withdrew to her highness's apartment. There she shewed me a number of English prints, and among the rest that of Mr. Garrick, in the character of Richard III. The fame of this celebrated actor has reached this part of the world, and her highness often speaks of him as an extraordinary genius.

By what I can find, they would be glad to have a theatre in Schwerin; but the duke, for

* That is, the *rabbit Island*, *Werder* properly signifying an island in a river.

the reasons already mentioned, does not tolerate such entertainments. Neither are there any public assemblies in the castle; but they play at cards now and then in private. Prince Lewis has a concert twice a week, Thursdays and Saturdays, in his own apartment; and the noblesse have alternately assemblies at their houses two or three times a week. The prince and princesses go to these assemblies, where the only diversion is card-playing, much in the same nature as at our drums and routs; they neither eat nor drink the whole time, and at nine the company retires. Most of the noblesse keep coaches, and never walk out without a servant. There are no hackney coaches, but chairs, which will carry you to any part of the town for six-pence. There are three or four coffee-houses for the burghers, and one for the noblesse; for these two orders never intermix. It is surprizing with what a high hand the nobility carry it in this country; they will scarce converse with a commoner, except upon business, and seem to look on plebeians as a different species. Hence it is, that they have so great a contempt for trade, and the mechanic arts, and would rather starve, than degrade themselves, as they call it, by any such profession. Physic, however, and the law are in some little esteem

esteem among them, especially the latter; and a plain proof of it is the great number of lawyers at Schwerin, many of whom make handsome fortunes; yet none of the nobility bring up their children to that profession. Those of small fortunes seek employments either at court or in the army; from which the burghers seem to be absolutely excluded.

Thus you see, that Schwerin affords but little entertainment to those who are fond of gaiety and pleasure. But as this is not my aim, I pass my time very agreeably, in conversing now with the learned, and now with the ladies and gentlemen at court. I breakfast always at my inn, from thence I go to the archives, then wait upon princess Ulrica, where I hear her read some English book, and discourse with her a little in our language. I dine at court, the afternoon I make visits, and spend the evening at the castle. This affords me sufficient amusement, and I do not regret the want of more fashionable diversions.

I was invited a day or two ago by the marshal of the court to go with him to the coffee-house frequented by the noblesse, in order to see their manner of spending the evening. It stands almost in the middle of the town, and the rooms for company are on the first floor. We went up stairs, and found a good many gentlemen, chiefly officers, most of whom I had seen at

court. There were two pretty large rooms, well illuminated; and in the largest of the two was a billiard table, as in most German coffee-houses. None but the noblesse are admitted into this house; as for the burghers, *procul este profani*. Part of the company were playing at billiards, others smoking their pipes, others drinking punch and wine; and in the lesser room were two card-tables, with company playing. Every one calls for what he pleases, and is well served. I conversed a while with some of the company, then read the news-papers, which amused the time till nine o'clock. The marshal's son, a very pretty young gentleman, who was bred at Vienna, proposed going with me to court; his father, on account of his age, always supping at home. After we had sat down to table, princess Ulrica happened to ask me, how I came to write the history of her country? and when I had satisfied her highness, she told me, that her desires were now fulfilled, for that she had often wished, from the first time of seeing my history, that the author would come and pay a visit to Mecklenburg. Upon our adjourning as usual to her apartment, she shewed me an English letter written that day by way of exercise, and I was surpris'd at her progress. Her highness intends to get an English bible, which
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I recommended to her as a good way of acquiring a variety of words. Miss Wurmb also shewed me an English letter of her inditing; but it was much inferior to that of princess Ulrica.

The next morning baron Zúlow called upon me in his coach, to take me with him to counsellor Schmidt's, whose indisposition was something abated. The counsellor received us with great regard, and made us stay to breakfast. The conversation turned chiefly on the affairs of Mecklenburg; on which occasion, M. Schmidt entered into the particulars of the late ravages of the Prussians, and promised to give me an authentic account of them in writing. I adjourned by appointment to Mr. Weisse's, in order to see his cabinet of curiosities. Mr. Weisse, who is also one of prince Lewis's gentlemen, conducted me, in the most polite manner, to his cabinet. His collection indeed is excellent, consisting of fossils, minerals, stones, and shells, in the greatest variety. Such collections are no where more common than in Mecklenburg; there is hardly a town of any note without a virtuoso.

M. Weisse is not only a collector of curiosities, but a philosopher. Talking of the petrified shells found on the tops of mountains, he said it was the common opinion, that either the sea had formerly reached to that distance,
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so as to leave those shells behind, or that they had been deposited there by the general deluge. But this way of accounting for it seems insufficient; because those shells are discovered, not only on the top, but in the very heart and center of the mountains, where it is very improbable the sea-water could ever reach. He is therefore of opinion, that perfect testaceous animals never could grow any where but in the sea, their flesh being formed by that viscous matter in the salt water, of which some philosophers affirm, that eels are also engendered. But as for their shells, he says, they may grow on any place that has sand and humidity enough to form a cement. And to this purpose he quoted Aristotle, in his history of animals, l. 5. c. 15. where that philosopher says, that *conchæ, camæ, ungues, & pectines, lotis arenosis ortus sui initia capiunt*. Hence it comes to pass, that as nature is supplied in the sea with sand and humidity, of which the shell is formed, and moreover with that viscous matter which constitutes the flesh, it is there only that perfect testaceous animals can have their birth. But on mountains, and other sandy or gravelly places, which want the above viscous matter, the shells only can be formed, which may be called *naturæ inchoationes*, there not being sufficient matter to complete their generation. And hence also it is, that shells are

often found even in stones, because the same sand that forms the shells, contributes likewise to the generation of the stones, and cements or joins them together. And with sufficient moisture living fish might have been also found, as there have been instances of crabs weighing four pounds, discovered in the hollow of two large stones, joined close together.

There was not time to enter into a discussion of this point; neither did I think proper to argue much with a gentleman, who was treating me with so much civility. I therefore turned him thanks for the sight of his curiosities; and dinner-time being at hand, made the best of my way to court.

There sat a nobleman at table, whom I had not seen before, namely, baron Forstener, the steward of the household, who was just returned from the provincial diet, held at the town of Malchin. The baron had assisted at the assembly, as the duke of Schwerin's commissioner, in conjunction with M. Seip, commissioner from his highness of Strelitz. He entertained me with an account of the transactions of the diet, which sat but a fortnight. Upon my taking notice of the shortness of the session, he said, that the parliaments of England and Mecklenburg met much about the same time; but the latter dispatched business much quicker than the former. I made answer, that I believed

believed their parliament had not that variety of business on their hands, or they certainly could not break up so soon. He smiled, and said, it was true. I observed the room to be set round with tables, on which were spread all sorts of mercery goods, as silks, stuffs, velvets, brocades, besides toys of various sorts, as watches, snuff-boxes, &c. This was a sight altogether new to me; and upon asking the reason, they told me, it was a mercer from Gustrow, who comes hither to vend his goods two or three times a year; and to save the ladies trouble, the court is his shop. I was surprised at this indulgence; but custom banishes, or, at least, reconciles us to all impropriety. After dinner the company went and viewed the goods, and some bought, while others only looked on. From thence we adjourned to princess Ulrica's apartment, where her highness and Miss Wurmb shewed me, each, another English letter of their inditing; which, considering the short time they have been learning, viz. only two months, were tolerably well penned. The princess's teacher was there, and made an apology for not having corrected any errors, because he would let me see the letters exactly as they came from their hands. His name is Kolbe, a native of Strasburg; he is a well bred sensible man, and speaks pretty good English, but with a foreign accent.

cent. The princess then read a few pages out of Sir Charles Grandison, but with a better accent than her master. Thus the time passed till about six o'clock, when the princess invited me to the assembly, which was to be held that evening at baron Schuchman's. I thanked her highness for the honour done me, and attended her to the baron's.

This nobleman is an officer in the regiment of guards, a man of very good sense, and grave deportment. His house is not so handsome as convenient and well furnished. The company was very numerous, some above, and some below stairs. There was a brilliant appearance of ladies, many of whom are singular beauties; and I must observe to you, in general, that the sex in Mecklenburg are remarkably handsome. Madam de Lutzow and madam de Vietinghoff seemed to eclipse the rest by the superior lustre of their charms. Card tables were set in every room; and some played at whist, others at ombre and quadrille. I had the honour of playing at ombre, a little while, with princess Ulrica and colonel Both. We afterwards changed hands, for I had almost forgot the game, and baron Forstener took my place; I then got among a circle of young ladies, who played at commerce, a game which amuses me the most, requiring little attention. The company were surprisingly chearful; laughing and chatting all the time; and an agreeable circumstance to me was, that

that I neither won nor lost. Thus we beguiled the hours till past nine, when the company separated. Upon our removing to princess Ulrica's apartment, the princess and Miss Wurmb shewed me two short translations of theirs, from the German into English. I commended what was right, and took the liberty to correct their mistakes, for which they kindly thanked me. Thus I officiate here every day as her highness's præceptor in the English language. Princess Charlotte, who has not yet been admitted a member of this academy, listens with great attention, and smiles at the eager sedulity with which her good sister, princess Ulrica, applies to her English studies. When the hour of withdrawing comes, the prince and two princesses embrace one another with as much tenderness as if they were at a long separation.

The next morning baron Zulow called upon me with the draught of the palace of Ludewigs-Lust, which the duke had been so good as to send me as soon as finished. He told me there was to be a concert in the evening, at prince Lewis's apartment, where his highness would be glad to see me. This invitation was very acceptable, as you know I am a lover of music. Before I waited on princess Ulrica, at the usual time in the forenoon, I went to see some paintings in M. Matthieu's apartment. M. Matthieu is a native of Prussia,
now

now intirely retained in the duke's service. The collection answered my expectation; it consists chiefly of portraits of the serene family, extremely well done. Those I admired most were the young prince, and his governor, baron d'Ufedom, the two princesses, and Miss Wurmb. After I had surveyed this collection, M. Matthieu carried me to signora Affabile's apartment, where I was agreeably entertained, for above an hour, with a variety of Venetian songs. Signora Affabile is a native of Venice, and a very good singer : she is lodged and boarded at the castle, and has a handsome salary from prince Lewis. After dinner we adjourned to princess Ulrica's apartment, where the princess and miss Wurmb shewed me their English exercises of that day, very prettily done, and desired my remarks, which I gave them with my usual freedom; for they did not want to be complimented, but to be set right. Thus the afternoon passed till six o'clock, when we adjourned to prince Lewis's apartment, to assist at the concert.

I was surprised to find so little company, and much more so when I heard the performance, which I assure you was excellent. Beside the prince and princesses, there were only a few ladies belonging to the court, and the count de Flohr. The gentlemen, it seems, chuse to divert themselves at the coffee-house, either at billiards or cards, till the concert is over, and then

then come to supper. The concert-room is large and commodious, and adorned with handsome pictures. The band of music is very good ; the first violin is a native of Hanover, who also plays well on the harpsichord. Prince Lewis plays the second violin. The singers are princess Charlotte, Miss Wurmb, and signora Amabile, and a man who sings the base. Signora Amabile has an excellent voice, a good ear, and great judgment. Princess Charlotte sang several Italian songs with inexpressible grace ; I must own I was quite enchanted with her performance, and might say with the ecstasied Italian, *poco mancó che non restassi in cielo.*

From her e'en Philomel might learn to sing,
And in a softer strain salute the spring.

Yet as all earthly pleasures have some alloy, my raptures were now and then interrupted by an impudent monkey, who was chained to a long pole in the concert-room. This animal had got a-top of the pole, and seemed to be very attentive to the music, when a little Italian greyhound made his appearance, and invited monsieur to come down. The monkey no longer paid any attention to the music, but obeyed the greyhound's call, and their sportive gesticulations set the company a-laughing. This scene was several times repeated, to my no small mortification,

tification; for I could not but feel a just indignation, that an entertainment of so delicate a nature should be thus interrupted by so contemptible an animal.

During supper, we had a good deal of conversation with regard to the state of music in England, and the opera in the Haymarket. The age of some persons being afterwards questioned, princess Ulrica observed, that princes and princesses have one great advantage, that their age is recorded, and a matter of public knowledge; which prevents the vanity of concealing their years, and pretending to be younger than they really are. The discourse was then changed to Mr. Wilkes and lord Chatham, who are continually the topic of conversation in this part of the world. I find that many of the gentry here know very little of the constitution of England; and I have often been obliged to set them right upon articles, with which one would have imagined persons of their liberal education could not be unacquainted. But I have observed the same ignorance in France and Italy; and, generally speaking, very few people have a right idea of the constitution and government of any other country than their own; and even in regard to that, how many are deficient!

In returning home, I felt it piercingly cold. The frost is set in already, and threatens a severe winter. It is time to be gone; I have

transcribed what I wanted in the archives, and received several original papers from counsellor Schmidt, and other literati. I propose therefore taking my leave of their serene highnesses to-morrow or next day, and then for Hamburg. My stay in that city shall be as short as possible; so that your next may be directed to me at Amsterdam. My mind is now all in a hurry, and a strange agitation.

— There's a time when e'en the rolling
year

Seems to stand still; dead calms are in the
ocean,

When not a breath disturbs the drowsy
waves :

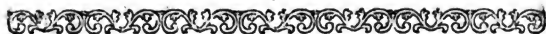
But man, the very monster of the world,
Is ne'er at rest.—

However, I hope I shall rest a-while at my return to London; the toils and perils of travelling being over, I shall there divide my time between friends and books, a term most anxiously desired by,

Dear Sir,

Yours, &c.

L E T-



L E T T E R XXI.

Schwerin, December 1, 1766.

DEAR SIR,

PRINCE Lewis did me the honour yesterday morning to invite me to breakfast, in order to give me a full view of his cabinet of medals, which I had seen but very cursorily at my first arrival. It is really a fine collection, superior to any in this country, except that of M. Neuman, Syndic of Rostock. I staid with the Prince the whole morning, examining into those which are reckoned the most scarce and curious. His highness made several judicious remarks on many of the medals, and I assure you is a connoisseur. A knowledge of the medals of a country is no inconsiderable part of its history; and besides the gratification of a liberal curiosity, leads us to a more accurate acquaintance with events, which, otherwise, would be understood but very imperfectly. From the affection you bear to the history of this country, you seem very desirous I should send

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you

you an account of its medals and coins; and I have used all my endeavours to acquire as much knowledge of the subject, as may enable me to gratify your curiosity. But you are sensible, it is too large an undertaking to comprehend within the limits of a letter; I shall therefore only send you a specimen at present, relating to the gold coins; and defer treating of the others till I have more leisure and opportunity. I must previously observe, that there is no such thing as a medallie history of Mecklenburg; yet the coins and medals of this country are not only very numerous, but many of them remarkable. Hence I flatter myself, that you will be pleased with the following essay; in which I have been chiefly assisted by my learned friend professor *Æpinus* of Butzow.

So late as the 12th century there was no coin in Mecklenburg; all business was transacted by barter or exchange. But the commerce of the Hanse towns, or maritime cities, afterwards introduced the use of money. The *jus monetandi*, or privilege of coining, belongs to the dukes of Mecklenburg *jure territorii*, and not by any imperial grant; for before they were made princes of the empire in 1348, they coined money, and had conferred that same right, or *jus monetandi*, on the city of Rostock. The first specie was the pfennings, ill minted, and on account of their being very thin and brittle,

tle, by the vulgar called chaffinches eyes. They were current in the 13th century, and marked with a buffalo's head, the ancient arms of the serene family. At that time forty-eight pfennings made a mark. This small specie used to be delivered in weight; and thus five pounds of chaffinches eyes amounted to five marks. The chaffinches eyes being so very brittle, were kept in bags, made of goats skins, which the women used to hang upon their girdle. In paying a large sum, they were put into a paper and weighed. But the public growing tired of such brittle specie, the Hanse towns of Lübeck, Wismar, and Hamburg, first coined the hard schillings, in 1468. Twelve schillings were reckoned to make a florin. A pound of pure silver at that time cost two pounds and fifteen schillings in specie; and a pound of silver melted down, was made to answer three pounds and nine pfennings. Money was afterwards greatly adulterated, in consequence of granting the privilege of coinage to such a number of cities. Thus the intrinsic value of the specie no longer corresponded with the denomination. This avarice of the imperial cities, and of many of the German princes, was represented to the emperor Sigismund; who issued an edict, that any city, town, or company, debasing the specie, should pay a hundred weight of gold, and be for ever deprived of the privilege of coining.

To determine the precise time when gold was first coined in Mecklenburg, is extremely difficult, if not impossible. From the best observations and enquiries, gold coin does not appear to have been current here before the year 1441; and the first pieces were Lubeck and Rhenish gold gilders. The privilege of coining gold was particularly confirmed by a patent of the emperor Maximilian I. in 1485, to the dukes Magnus and Balthasar. The following list, which I have drawn up for the fuller gratification of your particular curiosity, contains all the Mecklenburg coins and medals since that time, in a chronological order.

LIST

LIST of MECKLENBURG GOLD COINS and MEDALS.

[N. B. (a) Signifies the face of the medal, or coin; (b) the reverse.]

THE first Mecklenburg gold coin that I know of is a gold gilder, which, in the emperor Charles V's. coinage ordinance of the year 1551, chap. IX. §. 8. is denoted thus:

Mecklenburgische Ohn. S. Christoff.

S. Goldoft's Catholicon Rei Monet. S. 164. In the same ordinance, chap. IV. §. 4. the value of the imperial gold-gilder is set down at 72 creutzers; in the valuation are mentioned the deficient; and among these, this of Mecklenburg, the value of which, as of others, is set down only at 69½ creutzers. In the coinage ordinance of the emperor Ferdinand I. in 1559. §. 87. Goldoft's Cathol. Rei Mon. S. 141. as likewise the first edition of it, published, in small folio, at Mentz 1559, by Francis Behm, which is now very scarce, fol. 16. a. it likewise bears the same mark; but in Mr. Kahlen's Corp. Jur. Publ. p. 544. this is its mark: *Mecklenburgische S. Christoff.* This gold-gilder is there placed among those, which, after six months, were no longer to be current, or received in payment. Neither the year in which it was coined, nor the prince to whom it is to be ascribed, are known. It is not improbable, that the dukes Magnus and Balthazar, having obtained the imperial privilege, did not delay making use of it; and thus began their gold coinage, as before it had been limited to silver. The mark *Ohne St. Christoff*, seems to signify, that even gold-gilders, to be compleatly current, must bear the stamp of that Saint. It is in vain, I fear, to wish for a sight of such a gold-gilder; the deficient coins, by an ordinance of the emperor Ferdinand, have been melted down, and thus are no longer in being.

DUKE ALBERT THE HANDSOME.

2. A gold-gilder. (a) Our Saviour consecrating a chalice, which he holds in his hand. *Albertus, De. Gra. Dux.*

Y 4

M. (b)

M. (b) Five coats of arms crosswise, *Moneta. Nova. Aurea. Duc. Mag.*

See Treasure of all the Species, Forms, and Sorts of Gold and Silver Coins; Antwerp 1580. fol. n. S. 6. a. where you have a plate of this coin; and its weight is said to be two drams and twelve grains. Duke Albert had many disputes with his brother duke Henry, the Peaceable, concerning the partition of the country; which at length were accommodated, by a twenty years convention made at Wismar in 1534. He died in 1547. The both brothers governed in common, and sometimes coined in common, yet each separately caused several larger and smaller pieces to be coined, bearing their particular name.

These gold-gilders I look upon to be one of the scarcest Mecklenburg coins. Whether the image, with the chalice on the face, be our Saviour, according to the book above mentioned, I know not. In the list of coins, with the effigies of saints, which is to be found in the third drawer of Mr. Grosch's cabinet, lately made public, it is observed that the Cleves and Mecklenburg coins have the Evangelist John holding a chalice or cup, with a serpent or aspic in it.

DUKE JOHN ALBERT I.

3. A ducat, (a) The duke's bust with a hat on. *Johann. Alber. D. G. Dux. Mega.* 1554. (b) The coat of arms. *Premi. Co. Tollimur.*

The words on the reverse are, *Premi. cruce. tollimur*; and the same, as apposite to the times, were likewise put on some small money, coined at that turbulent juncture.

DUKE ULRIC,

4. A gold piece. (a) The duke's bust in high relievo. *Ul. H. Z. Meck.* (b) The arms with the supporters and crest. The weight of this piece I never heard specified.

5. A gold piece. (a) The bust very prominent, the head covered; round it 1562. *Ulrich. Hert. Z. Meckelbur.* (b) The coat of arms complete. *Herr Gott. Verleich. Uns. Gnad.* Weighs three ducats, and, like the former, has the appearance of being cast.

6. A gold piece, (a) The bust. *Ulrich. Hertzog. Z. Meck.*

Meck. Ætatis. 75. (b) The duchess's bust, V. G. G. Anna G. Z. S. P. H. S. Meck. W. This piece, which appears likewise to have been cast, weighs near five ducats. Duke Ulrick was born the twenty-first of April 1527, and died the fourth of March 1603. His widow possibly might have ordered such pieces for the celebration of his obsequies, and distributed on the occasion; on this supposition, the legend on the reverse is easily made out: *V. G. G. Anna geborne zu Stettin Pommern, Hertzogin zu Mecklenburg Wittwe.*

The three preceding pieces were probably, according to the custom of those times, struck for medals to be given away occasionally.

7. A gold piece of the dimensions, and the same impression, of one of this duke's dollars. Its weight is that of a Portuguese cruzado.

SOPHIA, DUKE ULRIC'S DAUGHTER, CONSORT TO
FREDERICK II. KING OF DENMARK.

The medals on the marriages of persons of the ducal family with foreign princes or princesses, are intitled to a place here, as appertaining to the history of the ducal house.

8. (a) The king's bust, bare-headed, and a quilled ruff; under it 1587. *Fredericus II. D. G. Danicæ. Norvegicæ. Z. Rex.* (b) The queen's bust, the head covered, and a broad ruff. *Sophia Konigin. Zu. Denmarck. Z.* See a plate of it in *Oligeri Jacobæi Museum Regium Danicum*, edit. 2. p. LXXVII. n. 21.

9. A small round coin. (a) The king's bust. *Fredericus II. D. G. R. D. N.* (b) The queen's bust. *Sophia. D. G. Regina Dan.* Jacobæus l. c. n. 23.

10. (a) The queen's bust, as in number 6. *Sophia Konigin. Zu Denmarck.* (b) The same figure as on the other side. Jacobæus l. c. n. 24.

11. (a) The queen's bust in a broad quilled ruff. *Sophia Konigin. Zu. Denmarck. Z.* (b) The Mecklenburg arms. *Gott. Verlest. Die. Seinen. Nicht.* 1591. Jacobæus l. c. n. 25.

12. An oval coin, stamped only on one side. The queen's bust in mourning. *Sophia Konigin. Zu Denmarck. Z.* Jacobæus l. c. n. 26.

13. A small oval coin. (a) as the former. *Sophia Konigin.*

gin. Zu. Denmark. (b) The Mecklenburg arms. *Gott. Verleßt. Dei. Seinen. Nicht.* 1616. Jacobæus l. c. n. 27.

The preceding coins are in the king's cabinet at Copenhagen. Jacobæus p. 77. a, says concerning them, Nummi ejusmodi bullæ erant Reginæ munificentissimæ quibus suos clientes decorare solita est.

THE DUKES ADOLPHUS FREDERICK I. AND JOHN ALBERT II.

14. Medal. (a) The busts of both dukes. (b) A pelican, tearing up its own breast, to feed the young ones with its blood. This piece was struck for the public entry of the dukes into Gustrow, on the country being restored to them in 1631, and were thrown among the people on that happy event.

THE GUSTROW LINE.

DUKE JOHN ALBERT II.

15. Ducat. (a) The duke erect, and armed cap-a-pie, with his left hand resting on his sword. *V. G. G. Hans. Albrecht. C. E. R. H. Z. Meck. F. Z. W. G. Z. S.* (b) The arms. *Non est mortale quod opto*, 1633.

The letters *C. E. R.* undoubtedly mean Coadjutor Episcopatus Raceburgensis.

DUKE GUSTAVUS ADOLPHUS.

16. Ducat. (a) The duke's bust. *D. G. Gustav. Adolphus, Dux Meckl.* (b) The arms surmounted with a prince's cap. *Quid retribuam Domino*, 1666.

17. Ducat like the former, 1668.

18. Ducat of the year 1671. See David Richter, Nummi Sacri, §. 15.

19. Ducat as numero 16, of the year 1672. See Kohler Ducaten Cabinet. part. 2. sect. 621.

20. Ducat, as the former, of the year 1674.

21. Ducat of the year 1675.

22. Ducat. (a) The bust. *D. G. Gust. Adolp. Dux Meckl.* (b) The arms. *Quid retribuam Domino*, 1680.

23. Ducat. (a) The bust. *D. G. Gust. Adolphus Dux. Meckl.* (b) The arms. *Quid retribuam Domino*, 1686.

24. Ducat, as number 22, 1687.

25. Ducat. (a) The bust. *D. G. Gustav. Adolp. Dux. Mecklb.*

Mecklb. (b) The arms. *Quid retri—buam*, (this division of the word is on each side of the prince's hat) *Dominus*, 1688.

26. Ducat, like the former, 1689.

PRINCESS ELEONORA.

27. Medal, weighing two ducats. (a) The arms. *Dei Gratia. Gustav. Adolphus Dux. Meckl.* (b) *Anno quo cel-sissima princeps Eleonora primogenita domus, post feliciter pe-raetum vitæ curriculum beata morte, 24 Februarii, extincta, magnum sui reliquit desiderium. 1672.*—This medal is likewise in silver; weight 8 grosches.

PRINCESS SOPHIA, CONSORT TO DUKE CHRISTIAN ULRIC OF WURTEMBERG-OELS, AND BERNSTADT.

28. Gold medal weighing 10 ducats, of the year 1701, with the busts of the duke and his consort facing each other. See *Dewerdeck Silesia Numismatica*, Tab. 21. n. 54. p. 475, 476.

29. A medal weighing 18 ducats, for the duchess's birth-day 1702. The busts of the duke and duchess. There is also one in silver, weighing two ounces. See *Dewerdeck l. c. n. 55. p. 456. 477.*

30. Ducat. (a) The duke's bust. *D. G. Christ. Ulr. Dux. W. T. I. S. O. Et. B.* (b) The duchess's bust. *D. G. Sophia Duc. W. T. I. S. Ols. B. N. D. M. P. W. S. R.*

PRINCESS LOUISA, MARRIED TO FREDERICK IV. KING OF DENMARK.

31. Double ducat. (a) The king's bust. *Fred. IV. D. G. Dan. N. V. G. Rex. 1705.* (b) The queen's bust. *Louisa D. G. Dan. N. V. G. Rex.* See *Numophylacium Ehrencronianum*, p. 299. n. 218.

32. Double ducat (a). The king's bust. *Fred. IV. D. G. Dan. Nor. V. G. Rex. 1705.* (b). The queen's bust. *Louisa D. G. Reg. Dan. Nor. Van. Goth.*

33. A small neat medal. (a) The king's bust, and file. (b) The queen's bust and file. Is a quarter of a ducat.

34. Small medal. (a) The queen's bust. (b) The sun. Legend, *L' Incomparable.* Is like the preceding, a quarter of a ducat; and both are also in silver.

Pieces

Pieces were also struck on this queen's marriage, coronation, birth-day, and delivery; but which hitherto I have met with only in silver.

THE SCHWERIN LINE.

ADOLPHUS FREDERICK I.

35. Gold oval medallion. (a) The duke's bust. (b) The duke's consort's bust. Said to weigh near 7 crowns.

36. The like. (a) The bust in profile with quilled ruffs. *Adolph. Frederick. H. Z. Mburg.* Fortune with its sails spread on a winged ball. *Fortune. in Fortune. Fort. Une.*

It weighs near 7 crowns, and is to be seen in the duke of Saxe Gotha's cabinet of medals. Appears to be cast. See Tenzel's *Curieuse Bibliothek. Repositor. 1. drawer V. p. 446.*

37. A medal. (a) The bust is a stiffened ruff. *Adolph. Frider. V. G. G. Hertz. Z. Meckl. F. Z. W. G. Z. S. D. L. R. U. S. H.* (b) Fortune on a winged ball, with some horsemen by. *Fortune. in Fortune. Fort. Une. 1612.* Weighs 6 ducats.

38. One exactly of the same impression; weighing 5 ducats.

39. A square medal with the duke's bust and arms, of the year 1633.

Is set down at 3 ducats weight, and preserved in the collection of the late Mr. Niehenk, at Gottenburg.

40. Ducat. (a) The bust in profile. *Adolph. Fredr. V. G. G. H. Z. M. F. Z. W. A. D. S.* (b) The arms with three crests. *V. G. Z. S. D. L. R. U. S. H. An. 1639.*

41. The bust in profile, with a laced ruff. *Adolph. Fredr. V. G. G. H. Z. M. F. Z. W. A. D. S.* (b) The arms. *V. G. Z. S. D. L. R. U. S. H. 1642.* These pieces weigh six ducats.

PRINCESS ANNA MARIA, CONSORT TO AUGUSTUS DUKE OF SAXONY.

42. A ducat. (a) The cypher, *A. M.* begins the initial letters of the princess's name, surmounted with a crown and within a wreath, *Deum Qui Habet. Omnia Habet.* (b) *Nata. Suer. 1. Jul. 1627. Denat. Hal. 2. Dec. 1669. Aet. XLII. M. 5. D. 10.*

A Silver medal, in value two gold gilders, was likewise struck on her funeral.

DUKE CRISTIAN LEWIS I.

43. A double ducat. (a) The bust. *Christ. Lud. D. G. Dux. Megap. Princ. Vand.* (b) The arms, within the French order of the Holy Ghost, and crowned; underneath, 1681. *Jehova. Sors. Mea.*

DUKE FREDERICK WILLIAM.

44. Ducat. (a) The bust. *Fred. Will. D. G. Dux. Mec. P. V.* (b) The arms. Underneath 1696. *Non. Est. Mortale. Quod. Opto.*

45. Ducat. (a) The letters *F. W.* under a crown, *D. G. Dux. Megap. Princ. Vand.* (b) The arms within a mantle, and surmounted with a crown. The inscription. 1696. *Non. Est. Mortale. Quod. Opto.*

46. Ducat. (a) The bust. *Frid. Will. D. G. Dux. Meg. P. V. A.* (b) As number 45.

47. Ducat. (a) The bust. *Fridr. Will. D. G. Dux. Mecl.* (b) The arms crowned. *Quo. Deus. Et. Fortuna. Ducunt.* 1701.

48. Ducat (a). The arms crowned. *Fridericus. Will. D. G. Dux. Mecklenb.* (b) Buffalo's head within a wreath. *Quo. Deus. Et. Fortuna. Ducunt.* 1701. On both sides are these letters, *Z. D. K.* being the name of M. Kelp, the master of the mint.

49. A half ducat, entirely like the former.

50. A quarter ducat, d^o.

51. Ducat, *Quo. Fas. Et. Gloria. Ducunt.*

52. A medal. (a) The duke's bust in armour. *Fridericus. Wilhelmus. D. G. Dux. Megapolitanus. Pius. Felix. Inclitus.* (b) The two palaces of *Schwerin* and *Gustrow*, fastened to a chain, with a buffalo's head holding it up in the middle. *Dei. Gratia. Cæsaris. Leopoldi. Justitia.* In the exergue, *Indissolubili Junxit Catena, Z. D. K. Anno* 1701.

Weights 20 ducats. See also *Richter Nummi Sacri*, §. 19.

53. Medal. (a) and (b) both like the former. The exergue, *Indissolubili Junxit Catena. Hamb. 8 Mart. A^o. 1701.* The legend, *Major. Majoribus. Posteris. Ad. Majora. Autor.* Weighs 10 ducats.

54. Medal.

54. Medal. (a) The two residentiary palaces of *Schwerin* and *Gustrow* within a chain, which is held by a hand stretched out from the clouds. In the middle of the chain is suspended a *padlock*, under it a *ship at sea*. *Gott. Hat. Auf. Zweyen. Eins. Gemacht*. In the exergue, *Consolidata. Megapolis*. 1701. 8 Martii. (b) 2 Angels with palm-branches in their left hand, and in their right holding a buffalo's head. *Und. Mecklenburg. Zur. Ruh. Gedacht*. The exergue, *Gaudium Mecklenburgicum*. 1701, 16th of July. Weighs 8 ducats. The three last pieces were struck in commemoration of the union of the two duchies, and are likewise in silver.

55. Ducat. (a) The name in a cypher crowned. (b) The arms, and under them 1703. *Et. Constanter*. In the exergue, *Z. D. K.*

56. Ducat. (a) The bust. *Frederi. Wilhe. D. G. Dux. Megapo.* (b) Entirely like the former.

57. Ditto, except that the inscription on (a) is, *Frider. Wilhel. D. G. Dux Megapol. P. V.*

58. Ducat. (a) The bust *Frid. Wilhelm. D. G. Dux. Megapol.* (c) Like the former.

59. Half ducat. (a) The bust. *Fridr. Wilhel. D. G. Dux. Megap.* (b) In the center, *Half Ducaten. Provide. Et. Constanter*.

60. Quarter ducat. (a) Like the former. (b) In the center, *Quarter Ducaten. Provide. Et. Constanter*.

61. Quarter ducat, as the former, except that the inscription in (a) is *Fredr. Wilhel. D. G. Dux. Megap.*

62. Ducat. (a) The bust. Under it, *Z. D. R. Frider. Wilhel. D. G. Dux. Megapol. P. V.* (b) Two persons of each sex in a bark on the sea. *Unum et Commune Periculum*. 1703.

63. Ducat. (a) As the former. (b) As the former. In the exergue, 1704.

64. Ducat. (a) As the former. *Frid. Wilh. D. G. Dux. Megapol.* (b) *Unum. Et. Commune. Periculum*. In the exergue, 1704.

The two persons are thought to represent the duke and his consort, on a supposition that these medals were struck on their marriage; but that having been posterior to the year, the emblem seems to have some other allusion.

65. Medal. (a) The bust. Under it, *I. F. Hilcken* (the name of the celebrated medallist) *Frider. Wilhelm. D. G. Dux. Megap. Princ. Vand.* (b) The new Schelf church

at Schwerin, with the inscription *I. F. H. In Dei Gloriam Et Memoriam. Duc. Megap.* The exergue, *Die 20 Nov. MDCCX.* Weighs 10 ducats. It is likewise in silver, weighing an ounce and a half. There were two other medals struck on the occasion, but I have hitherto met with them only in silver.

66. Ducat, with bust and arms 1711. *Princess Sophia Louisa*, the said duke's sister, and married to Frederick king of Prussia.

67. Medal on their marriage. (a) Jupiter and Juno drawn along the clouds in a chariot by two peacocks. *Nova Gaudia Mundo. Fridericus I. D. G. Rex. Pruss. et Sophia Louisa. Princeps. Mecklen.* (b) Two river gods sitting opposite to each other, with water issuing from two urns, one with the Prussian eagle on it, and the other the Mecklenburgh buffalo's head. *Unit. Cognati. Fluminis. Undas. Exergue, Nuptiis. D. 21. Nov. Anno. 1708. Felic. Celebratis.* Weighs 5 ducats; is likewise in silver.

DUKE CHARLES LEOPOLD.

68. (a) *C. L.* the initial letters of his name in a cypher under a crown, 1723. (b) In a triangle, a heart crowned, and environed with a glory, and the name of Jesus stamped on it. *In. Hoc. Omnia. Vinco.* Weighs two ducats, is likewise in silver, but very few of them coined. As it is the only coin of this prince, and the impression extremely delicate, it is very scarce.

DUKE CHRISTIAN LEWIS II.

69. Medal. (a) The bust in very high relieve. *D. G. Christianus. Ludovicus D. Megapolitanus.* (b) The arms within the order of the elephant, and surmounted with a lofty crown. *Per. Augusta. Ad. Augusta.* 1749. Weighs 10 ducats, and is likewise in silver. The duke made me a present of one of these medals.

70. Double pistole. (a) The bust. *Christ. Ludov. D. G. Dux. Mecklenb.* (b) The arms on a shield, within the orders of the Elephant and St. Andrew, and surmounted with a crown. 1752. *Per. Augusta. Ad. Augusta.*

71. Ditto, perfectly like the former, except the arms being in a small oval shield.

72. (a)

72. (a) The bust. *Christ. Lud. D. G. Dux. Meckelb.*
 (b) The arms within both the above-mentioned orders, above, 1754: underneath, 5. *Th. O. H. K.* The first of these letters denotes its value 5 thalers, or dollars: *O. H. K.* is the name of Mr. Knorr, master of the mint.

73. (a) The bust. *Christ. Ludov. D. G. Dux. Meckl.*
 (b) Quarter ducat. 1756. *Per. Augusta. Ad. Augusta.*

THE STRELITZ LINE.

DUKE ADOLPHUS FREDERICK III.

74. (a) The bust. *D. G. Adolph. Frid. III. Mecklenb. Dux.* (b) A church irradiated from the heavens, opposite to it, Faith, with the anchor, and the Mecklenburg buffalo's head on it. *A. Deo.* The exergue, *Megapolis. Jubilans. Anno. 1717. 31 Oct.*

75. Ducat. (a) Like the preceding. (b) The church on a rock in the middle of the ocean. *Consilio. Stat. Firma. Dei.*

Only three pieces coined. The stamp being so disfigured at the fourth stroke as to be unfit for use.

76. (a) Like the former. (b) The heavenly Jerusalem. *Nec. Ingens. Si. Corruat. Orbis. V.* The exergue like the two preceding.

77. (a) The letters *A. F.* within a beautiful border, and a crown. Over it 1746. (b) *II. Taler. Currant. C. H. I. Moneta. Aurea. Megapol.* The letters *C. H. I.* are the initials of the name of Mr. Jaster, master of the mint.

78. (a) The initial letters of the name as in the former. Over it 1746. (b) *I. Taler. Curr. C. H. I. Moneta. Aurea. Megapol.*

79. (a) The initial letters of the name as in the former. Over it 1747. (b) *II. Taler. Currant. C. H. I. Moneta. Aurea. Megapol.*

80. (a) The bust in a full wig. *D. G. Adolph. Frid. III. Mecklenb. Dux.* (b) The arms surmounted with a crown 1747. Above, 5 *Taler.* Beneath, *C. H. I.*

81. (a) The initial letters *A. F.* 1747. (b) *III. Gute. Pfennig. M. S. L. M.*

82. (a). A beautiful cypher of the ducal name crowned. *V. G. G. H. Z. M.* Underneath, 1748. (b) The buffalo's

buffalo's head within a moulding, crowned. Underneath, 5 *Thaler*. *C. H. J.*

83. (a) The bust in a full wig. *D. G. Adolp. Frid. III. Mecklenb. Dux.* (b) The arms, crowned, within the order of the Elephant. Over it, 1749. Beneath, *H. C. B.* expressing the name of Mr. Baumgarten, master of the mint. It is a pistole.

84. A pistole. (a) The bust with a tye-wig. *D. G. Adolph. Friedrich. III. Dux. Meckl.* (b) Like the former.

85. (a) The initial letters of the names on a cartouche crowned; above, 1749. (b) *I. Thaler. Courr. C. H. I. Moneta. Aurea. Megapol.*

DUKE ADOLPHUS FREDERIC IV. OUR QUEEN'S BROTHER.

86. A pistole. (a) The bust in armour. *Adolphus. Frider. IV. D. G. Dux. Megap.* (b) The arms, crowned, within the Saxon order of the White Eagle. Over it, 1745. Beneath, *H. C. B.*

87. A pistole. (a) The bust in a Roman habit. *Adolphus Frid. IV. D. G. Dux. Megap.* (b) The arms, crowned, within the order of the Seraphim. Above, 1754. Beneath, *H. C. B.*

II. ALBERT WALLENSTEIN.

The coins struck by him with the Mecklenburg arms, with propriety belong to this place.

88. A golden piece in the shape of a dollar. (a) The bust. Underneath, 1629. *Alber. D. G. Dux. Megap. Fri. Et. Sag. Princ. Vandal.* (b) The arms, with the order of the Golden Fleece. *Comes. Suerin. Domin. Rostoch. Et. Stargart.* Weighs 10 ducats, and was struck with a dollar stamp.

89. Double ducat. (a) The bust. *Albertus. D. G. Dux. Megapol. Fridl.* (b) The arms. *Et. Sagæ. Princ. Vandal.* 1631.

90. Ducat. (a) The bust. *Albertus. D. G. Dux. Megapol. Fridl.* (b) The arms. *Et. Sagæ. Princ. Vanda.* 1631.

91. Ducat of the same year, but another impression, with some small differences.

92. Ducat. (a) The bust. *Albertus. D. G. Dux. Megapol. Fridl.* (b) The arms. *Et. Sagæ. Princ. Vandal.* 1633.

93. A double ducat of the like impresson.

94. (a) The bust. *Albertus. D. G. Dux. Megap. Frid. Sag. Et. Glog.* (b) The arms. *Prin. Vand. Com. Suer. Do. Rost. Et. Star.* 1634. Weighs five ducats and a half.

95. (a) The bust. *Albertus. D. G. Dux. Megapo. Fridlan.* (b) The arms. *Et. Sagæ. Princ. Vandalor.* 1634. Its weight 3 ducats.

96. Double ducat. Impresson like the former.

The five last pieces are very remarkable, and number 94 the most. Wallenstein had been totally driven out of the Mecklenburg territories in the year 1632; and the violent catastrophe which was the result of his crimes, followed in the year 1634, the very year when the three last pieces were coined.

III. COINS AND MEDALS OF CITIES.

ROSTOCK.

97. A gold medal. In weight 12 ducats.

98. A gold coin of 10 ducats, said to be coined on the perpetual agreement of the year 1574.

99. (a) A griffin crowned. *Moneta. Nova. Rostockiens.* (b) The Imperial eagle. *Rudol. II. D. G. Ro. Imp. S. An.* 1609. Is a deficient gold gilder.

100. (a) A griffin. *Mone. Nova. Rostockiens, 1614.* (b) The Imperial eagle. *Matthias. D. G. Ro. Imp. Sem. A. P. F. D.* A gold gilder.

101. A double gold gilder. (a) The griffin. *Mone. Nov. Rostochi, 1623.* (b) The imperial eagle. *Ferdinand. II. D. G. R. I. S. Augu.*

102. A gold gilder. 1625.

103. A gold gilder. (a) The griffin. *Mone. Nov. Rostoch.* (b) The Imperial eagle. *Ferdinan. II. D. G. R. I. S. A.*

104. Ducat. (a) The griffin. 1632. *Moneta. Aurea. Civit. Rostoch.* (b) The Imperial eagle. *Ferdinand. II. Rom. Imp. S. A.*

105. A ducat. (a) The city arms. *Moneta. Aurea. Civita. Rostoch. 1633.* (b) As the former. *Ferdinandus II. D. G. Rom. Imp. S. Aug.*

106. A ducat of the year 1634.

107. Ducat.

107. Ducat. (a) The city arms. *Moneta. Aurea. Civita. Rostoch.* 1636. (b) As the former. *Ferdinandus II. D. G. Rom. Im. S. Au.*

108. Ducat. (a) Entirely like the former. (b) The Imperial eagle. *Ferdinand. III. D. G. Rom. I. S. A.*

109. Ducat. (a) As the former. (b) As the former. *Ferdinandus III. D. G. Rom. Im. S. A.*

110. Double ducat. (a) Within a square. *Ducatus. Novus. Civitatis. Rostochiensis.* Underneath, the city arms. 1639. *Deus. Protector. Noster.* (b) The Imperial eagle. *Ferdinandus III. D. G. Rom. Imp. Semp. Au.*

111. (a) The city arms. Under them, 1646. *Moneta. Aurea. Civita. Rostoch.* (b) The Imperial eagle. *Ferdinandus III. D. G. Ro. Im. S. A.*

112. Ducat. (a) The city arms. 1655. *Moneta. Aurea. Civita. Rostoch.* (b) Like the former.

113. Ducat. (a) The city arms. *Mone. Aurea. Civi. Rostoc.* 1661. (b) The Imperial eagle. *Leopoldus. D. G. Rom. Imp. S. A.*

114. Ducat. (a) The city arms. *Mone. Aurea. Civi. Rostoc.* 1664. (b) Like the former.

115. Ducat. (a) The city arms. *Mone. Aurea. Civi. Rostoch.* 1665.

116. Ducat. (a) The city arms. *Mone. Aurea. Civi. Rostoc.* 1682. (b) Like n. 114.

117. Ducat. (a) The city arms. *Mone. Aurea. Civi. Rostoc.* 1642. (b) Like the former.

118. Ducat. (a) The city arms. *I. M. Mone. Aurea. Civi. Rostoc.* 1694. (b) Like the former. *I. M.* the master of the mint's name.

119. Double ducat. (a) The arms. Over them, 1695. Beneath, *Mo. No. Civitatis. Rostoch.* Legend. *Deus. Protector. Noster.* (b) The Imperial eagle. *Leopoldus. D. G. Rom. Imp. S. Aug.*

120. Half ducat. (a) The griffin. *Mon. Aur. Rostochiensis.* 1695. (b) The Imperial eagle. *Leopoldus. D. D. R. I. S. A.*

121. Quarter ducat. (a) The city arms. *Mo. No. Rostoch.* (b) Quarter ducat. *Leop. D. G. R. I. S. A.* 1696.

122. Ducat. (a) The griffin. *Senat. Popq. Rostoch.* Under it, *Nunc. Revivisco. I. M.* (b) The Imperial eagle. *Leopoldus D. G. Rom. Imper. S. A.* 1704.

123. Ducat. (a) The city arms. *D. B.* (the name of Mr. Behrens, master of the mint) Underneath, *Moneta. Aurea. Rostochiensis.* 1762. (b) The Imperial eagle. *Franciscus D. G. Rom. Imp. Semp. August.*

WISMAR, TO THE YEAR 1648.

Schroder in his account of the city and lordship of Wismar says, that so early as the year 1400, it coined gold; but he has not produced a single proof of his assertion.

124. Gold gilder of the year 1502.

125 Gold gilder. (a) St. Laurence with the grid-iron and branch of palms. Under it the city arms. *Mone. Nova. Au. Civ. Wismar.* (b) The Imperial eagle, with the emperor's name and titles.

126. A gold gilder of the year 1604.

127. A gold gilder. (a) St. Laurence with the grid-iron and branch of palms. Under it the city arms. *Mone. Nova. Wismar.* 16. . . The Imperial eagle. *Matthias. D. G. Roma. Im. S. A. P. F. D.*

The 16 may be the number of the year, and the two following figures perhaps, worn away. The piece, however, must have been coined between 1612 and 1619.

128. A gold gilder of the year 1632.

129. A gold piece, value 3 ducats, of the year 1632.

130. A gold gilder with the arms of *Hamburgb, Lubec, Lunenburg, and Wismar*; but coined at the last place.

You see, my dear friend, I have been at some pains in inquiring into the medalllic history of this country. I only wish this specimen may afford you as much entertainment as it has given me labour to render it exact. I return now to prince Lewis, whose cabinet I surveyed yesterday morning. After I had satisfied my curiosity, I thanked his highness for the honour done me, and acquainted him, that the season being so far advanced, I could not delay my departure any longer,

longer, but proposed setting out for Hamburg the next day, in my way to England. His highness expressed great concern that I could not stay the winter, but acquiesced in the reasons I gave for the necessity of my departure. I then adjourned to my lodging, where I found a note from baron Zulow, informing me, that count Bassewitz was returned from Hamburg, and would be glad to see me at his house any hour I chose in the afternoon. I was pleased with the intelligence, being very desirous of seeing a minister so greatly respected and beloved. I dined at court, and acquainted the princesses and the rest of the company with my intention of setting out the next day for Hamburg. They all shewed great concern, and princess Ulrica in particular, who objected against the time of year, and pressed me very much to stay the whole winter. But this was impossible. There was to be an assembly that evening at baron Forstener's, to which I had a very kind invitation from that nobleman.

At four o'clock, baron Zulow called upon me in his coach, to conduct me to count Bassewitz. The reception I met with from this excellent personage was most polite and engaging. He is rather of a low stature, round-faced, and pitted with the small-pox: but he has a brisk eye, and a very sensible physiognomy. He seems to be between fifty and sixty, and is universally reckoned a man

of consummate abilities. The duke has a great confidence in him, entrusting him with the chief department of government, which he discharges with equal wisdom and probity. We drank coffee, and discoursed together about two hours. The subject of our discourse was the present state of Mecklenburg. He was very free and open, and seemed to be desirous of communicating any intelligence that might be of use towards my History. Among other things he mentioned the difficulty of new manufactures, on account of the high price of labour, for want of hands, which would make the goods come dearer than they had them from the Prussians. He lamented the great discouragement to commerce from the prejudices of the nobility, who are satisfied with living as their forefathers, and want no farther improvements. When I talked to him about the violence of the Prussians in the late war, he promised to give me a detail of their outrages, and to furnish me with some other papers and books relating to the history of this country, which he has since performed. At the same time he told me, that the money for paying off the remainder of the Hanoverian mortgage was ready, and deposited in the bank of Amsterdam. Thus the time passed till six, when I acquainted his excellency that I was engaged to baron Forstener's assembly : he smiled, and said his wife and he were engaged

6

gaged there also, and we should go together. The house is spacious, convenient, and elegantly furnished. The company was exceedingly brilliant. Princess Ulrica played at ombre with colonel Both and another nobleman. I had the honour of making one at quadrille with prince Lewis, mademoiselle Chambeaux, and the marshal of the court. I believe I told you before, that there is no eating or drinking at these assemblies; nothing but cards, like our routs and drums. At nine we broke up, and I supped at court, where I was not a little affected, my departure being almost the only thing talked of in company. At the usual hour we retired, and I took my final leave of baron Zulow and his lady, who were to set out as this morning for Ludewigs-Lust. I have been so greatly indebted to this young nobleman for his civilities, that I could not bid adieu to him without the warmest effusion of gratitude and concern.

The greater part of this day has been spent in taking leave of the noblesse and others, with whom I have the honour of being acquainted. The count de Flohr made me a present of the figures of the duchess and princess Ulrica, in plaster of Paris, extremely well done. Miss Wurmb made me sign my name among the list of her friends, with an English sentence, as a memorandum. Both at dinner and supper, princess Ulrica seemed to redouble her efforts

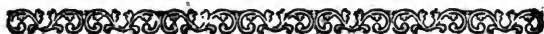
to talk English, and often expressed her concern that she was going to lose her new master. After supper, I took my leave of their serene highnesses with a very heavy heart, penetrated with a deep sense of their great condescension and good-nature. Their highnesses wished me a good journey, and expressed their desire of hearing of my safe arrival in England. I retired to my lodging, and in a few minutes two servants came to inquire for me, one from prince Lewis, and the other from princess Ulrica : the former brought me a gold watch, and the latter a large silver standish, which their highnesses desired I would accept as a token of their regard for me. When I asked for my bill, my landlord, with a very respectful bow, told me it had been already discharged by their serene highnesses. You may imagine I was greatly surprised at so much politeness and generosity, of which I shall ever retain the most grateful remembrance.

I am now going to bed ; adieu to Mecklenburg, a country where I have been so agreeably and so generously entertained. I leave it with regret, and shall never forget the pleasant hours I have spent here. To-morrow I propose setting out for Hamburg, where I hope to find a letter from you, giving me an account of your welfare, together with that of all my friends

friends in London, which will be most acceptable news to

Dear Sir,

Yours, &c.



L E T T E R XXII.

Hamburg, December 11, 1766.

DEAR SIR,

I Set out by myself, in a chaise, from Schwerin the second instant, after taking a running dinner at the inn, about 12 o'clock. Winter was now set in, and it freezed and snowed very hard; so that I could not much amuse myself with a view of the country. Yet I observed, that between Schwerin and Gadebusch it is a pretty good road, and agreeably diversified with woods, hills, and dales. I got to Gadebusch a little before dark, which is about sixteen miles from Schwerin. Having had a letter of recommendation to the duke's bailiff, who lives in the castle, I waited on him, and met with a cordial reception. He insisted on my spending the evening with him, and promised to shew me the curiosities of the place.

place. I knew there were curiosities to be seen, and therefore accepted of his invitation.

Gadebusch is a small town belonging to the duke of Mecklenburg Schwerin, situated on the river Radegast. The name signifies *Lucus*, or *Saltus Dei*, the *Gods grove*; an idol having been erected here, in a wood, for the worship of Radegast, the god of the Obotrites. The town is built partly on a hill, and the houses are but indifferent. The church is an ancient gothic building, very dark, and remarkable for a piece of metal in the window of the west end, which is said to have been a fragment of the idol Radegast. The window is of a round shape, in the form of a rose; and such windows having been commonly made in the west end of the ancient churches, from thence took the name of Western Roses. Some pretend that it is a fragment of king Radegast's crown; but this is all conjecture. The baptismal font is also said to be of the same metal. In this church lies interred the famous Albert of Mecklenburg, king of Sweden, who was deposed by Margaret Waldemar, the Semiramis of the North. After his abdication, he spent the remainder of his days in the duchy of Mecklenburg, and was buried here in 1394. Over his tomb are two pictures, one representing him as king, the other as duke. The castle is seated on a hill, but contains nothing remarkable.

able. Almost at the foot of the wall I saw the river Radegast, which takes its rise in this neighbourhood, and runs from hence to Rehn, and to Daffaw. Having surveyed every thing in the town, I went to view the neighbouring field of battle where the Danes were defeated by the Swedes under general Steinbock, Dec. 20, 1712. Not far from Gadebusch is a village named Radegast, and another called Wackenstadt, near which happened the above action.

After I had dined with the bailiff, I set out for Ratzeburg, a town sixteen miles distant from Gadebusch. I soon came to the boundary of the duke of Mecklenburg Schwerin's dominions, and entered those of the duke of Strelitz, who is sovereign of the principality of Ratzeburg. The road is pretty good, through a champaign country. The duke's territories on this side are very much indented with our king's electoral dominions; and posts are fixed upon the road to ascertain their respective boundaries. I reached Ratzeburg by dusk, and passed over a long wooden bridge on a fine lake, contiguous to the town. The postilion carried me to a good inn, where I supped with some Hamburg merchants, and fared extremely well. The next morning I was up betimes, and took a view of the town.

Ratzeburg

Ratzeburg is said to have taken its name from Razzo, prince of Rugen, who destroyed the city of Lubeck in 1139. It is a handsome town, situated on a hill, in the midst of a lake of the same name. The streets are regularly laid out, and most of the houses built in the Dutch taste. The town has a communication by water with Lubeck, which renders it a place of some trade. The greater part of Ratzeburg is subject to the elector of Hanover, as duke of Saxe Lawenburg. The quarter annexed to the principality contains the cathedral, with some buildings belonging to the duke of Strelitz, particularly the apartments for the mint, and those for holding the courts of ecclesiastic and civil jurisdiction. The cathedral was built by his majesty's illustrious ancestor, Henry the Lion, duke of Saxony and Bavaria. Here I saw the silver images of Christ and the apostles, the magnificent altar, and the beautiful choir, under which are the tombs of the dukes of Saxe Lawenburg. The Palmberg is a large handsome square, adorned with pleasant walks of lime-trees: at the end of this square stands the duke's palace, where his premier counsellor for the principality resides. The bridge, on the Mecklenburg side, is in length above four hundred paces, and cost upwards of 10,000 rixdollars; the inhabitants are obliged to keep it in repair.

I left

I left Ratzeburg about eleven in the forenoon, and travelling through a wood, reached Trittau between three and four. The country seemed very indifferent and moory. Trittau is a small village belonging to the duke of Holstein Gottorp, eighteen miles distant from Ratzeburg. I alighted at a mean inn, and my entertainment was very indifferent. Between four and five I parted from Trittau, and passing through a wretched country, full of fens, and poorly inhabited, between seven and eight I reached the pretty village of Horn, in the neighbourhood of Hamburg. I fixed my quarters for that night in the village, where I had very good accommodation, and the next morning early I hastened into Hamburg.

As soon as I had pitched my tent in this city, I went to wait upon my good friend M. Matthias, who was glad to see me. He kept me to dinner, and gave me some of his good old claret, and I in return gave him an account of my adventures. It continued to snow very hard, and the weather was growing every day more severe. There was a ship at this time in the river bound for London; which made me determine to go by sea, rather than travel over land. While we were waiting for a fair wind, I resolved to amuse myself as well as I could, and in the evening went to see a French play
acted

acted by a company of comedians who had been engaged by the Danish court, and were here in their way to Copenhagen. The house was not half full, owing, as I was told, to the impertinence of these strollers in demanding double prices. The tragedy was *Hypermnestra*; Danaus by M. Deschamps; Lynceus by M. Chevalier, and *Hypermnestra* by Mademoiselle Le Clerc. Their action was tolerable, but their voices so very low that I could scarcely hear them. But indeed I am no great friend to French tragedies; the monotony of their recitation is infinitely tiresome; and there is something very unnatural to hear heroes and heroines declaiming in rhyme. To make amends for the bad tragedy, there was a sprightly entertainment, called the *Laitiere*, or Milk-maid, a comic opera. M. Dinesi sang extremely well, and acted with humour. The play was over at eight, when we adjourned to the assembly at the English bowling-green. The company was very numerous, consisting of the flower of Hamburg, besides the gentlemen of the factory. The entertainment was elegant, and every thing conducted with the greatest regularity and decorum.

The next morning I waited on M. Hanbury, who invited me to dinner. I inquired after M. Woodford, and was sorry to hear of his being

ing confined at his country house, having had the misfortune of spraining his leg. After a little conversation with M. Hanbury, I rambled about the town, till I stumbled into the Cosmopolite coffee-house, where I was surprised to find my old friend captain H. whom I mentioned to you once before, on account of his stentorean abilities. He was just returned from Copenhagen, and expressed the greatest satisfaction at seeing me once more in Hamburg. But I dreaded renewing my acquaintance with him, remembering how much I had been incommoded last August, and therefore took myself away as handsomely as I could. M. Matthias and baron Marconnay were of the company at M. Hanbury's, where we were treated with such politeness and ease as gave an additional relish to the entertainment. M. Hanbury is the gentleman who drew up the elegant address presented to our queen, when the factory of Hamburg waited on her majesty at Stade. The same gentleman has just now formed a scheme, which will be of great service to the trade of this city, and of the English factory in particular. This is to establish an extra post in Holland, for forwarding the English letters to Hamburg, as soon as the packet arrives at Helvoetsluys. For want of such a regulation the Dutch have an opportunity of more early intelligence by two or three days, than

than it is possible on the present footing to have at Hamburg.

We were all to spend the evening, by invitation, at M. Walter's, the syndic. This worthy gentleman embraced me with the cordiality of a brother, and I was equally glad to see him and his good family. There were only a few select friends; we were entertained with an elegant supper; the company were remarkably chearful; M. Wagener favoured us with some of his good old songs; and upon the whole I spent a very happy evening.

The wind continuing in the west, and consequently contrary for England, Mr. Hanbury gave me an invitation to his country-house, at a village called Eimsbittel, about two miles out of town. I accepted of his kind offer; and we set out together in his coach, along with M. Wagener. We got thither a little before one; and while we were waiting for dinner, Mr. Hanbury was so polite as to shew me his house. It stands at a small distance from the high road, with a pretty neat garden in front, and another behind, which prevent its being incommoded by the dust. The house is almost square, and of no very regular architecture; but has been altered by Mr. Hanbury, so as to make a handsome appearance. The inside is really *simplex munditiis*,
neat

heat beyond expression ; the apartments commodious, and furnished in taste. In short, were you to see the elegance with which the house, the gardens, and the very stables are kept, you would pronounce this villa a nonpareil ; I am sure they have none such in this part of the world. Here I spent three of the most agreeable days in my whole life, entertained liberally, and gratified with every civility I could wish. To complete the scene, Monday the 8th of December was Mr. Hanbury's birth-day, when we had the company of some of his friends from Hamburg, among whom were M. Matthias, M. Walter, and the ingenious Dr. Rofs. It would take up too much time to detail the particulars of that happy day ; suffice it to tell you, that our entertainment was as elegant as our joy sincere in commemorating the nativity of our worthy host.

Early the next morning the wind was come about to the east, which was fair for England, and we returned to town. But unfortunately it had frozen so hard all night, and such heavy snows had fallen for some days, that the Elbe was full of floating islands of ice, which rendered the navigation impracticable. I found it was then my destiny to travel by land, and without farther repining resigned myself to the decrees of heaven.

VOL. II.

A 2

I had

I had a very great inclination to take the road of Hanover, having recommendations to that court, as I mentioned to you before, from prince Charles, the queen's brother; but, upon consideration that this might be productive of delay, I denied myself that pleasure, and resolved to go by Bremen. My next step was to look out for company; and, upon inquiring at the coffee-house, I found three gentlemen, who designed to set out in two or three days for Amsterdam. Two of them were Dutch captains of ships, M. Jasper Coen, and M. Jottie Ottes; the third was an Italian merchant, Signor Gargallo, lately come from Riga. I had an interview with those gentlemen, and finding their characters unexceptionable, I offered to join company, which was readily accepted. We agreed to hire a coach to Bremen, and the day fixed for our departure was the 12th instant. This point being settled, I went to dine by invitation with my worthy friend the Rev. Mr. Vaughan, chaplain to the factory. I passed the afternoon very agreeably with this gentleman, to whom I am greatly obliged for all his civilities. The evening I spent at Dreyer's coffee-house, with my three fellow-travellers, and had the pleasure of finding them very agreeable. Signor Gargallo is about forty, a man of sense, who has seen the world; he was
born

born at Naples, but speaks French and German. Captain Coen lives at Delft; his ship is now at Hamburg, but as it cannot set sail for some time, he is going to see his wife. He is forty-five, and speaks pretty good English. Captain Ottes lives in North Holland, and is a young man not above thirty. They seem to be obliging and good-natured, so that I promise myself much satisfaction in their company.

I spent two days in the melancholy business of taking leave of my friends, and particularly of Mr. Hanbury and Mr. Matthias. The cold growing every day more intense, I thought it necessary to secure myself against the weather by a warmer cloathing. I therefore had my great coat well lined with furs, and bought a furred cap, with a cape which came quite round my shoulders. To keep my feet and legs warm, I had a sort of boots, made of lamb-skin with the wool turned inside, which came over my shoes and stockings, and almost up to my waist. Thus I was equipped to travel in Siberia, and made a droll figure, not unlike that of Robinson Crusoe. The evening before my departure I spent with M. Matthias, at his house, with the additional satisfaction of my good friend baron Marconnay's company. After a most social evening I took my last farewell of them, and retired with a very heavy

heart to my lodging. The greatest hardship travellers undergo, is not the badness of roads or accommodations, but the frequent separation from those they love.

Thus all things are disposed for my winter's campaign. I propose setting out to-morrow in the forenoon, with my companions, for Bremen, and from thence to Amsterdam, where I intend to make but a short stay, being impatient to set foot once more in old England.

Adieu. I am, dear Sir,

Yours, &c.



L E T T E R XXIII.

Amsterdam, Dec. 27. 1766.

DEAR SIR,

AT length, thanks to Providence, I am landed safe at Amsterdam, after the fatigue and anxiety of a most perilous voyage. This intelligence, I am sensible, will sound like a paradox to you, whom I had acquainted in my last, that I proposed to set out for Amsterdam by land, in company with three agreeable gentlemen. My information was exact; but how I came afterwards to commit myself, at this season, to the fury of the boisterous ocean,

ocean, you will find at the end of this letter.

I set out from Hamburg in a coach and four early in the morning, the 12th instant, in company with the two Dutch captains, M. Coen and M. Ortes, and the Italian merchant, Signor Gargallo. It snowed very hard, and the Elbe was almost frozen over; so that the lofty banks of that river, which in a fine season are so delightful, afforded now a most dreary and uncomfortable prospect. We passed through Altena, and soon came to Neustadt, a very pretty village. By ten o'clock we reached Blackenese, a fishing-hamlet on the banks of the Elbe, eight miles from Hamburg. At this place is a ferry to cross over from the duchy of Holstein to that of Bremen. The banks of the Elbe on the side of Blackenese are very steep. We found the passage difficult, the wind being contrary, and the river clogged with huge flakes of floating ice. Besides, the ferry is hardly big enough for a wheel-carriage. You may judge of the embarrassment we were under, from our being two hours in crossing, where the river is no more than one mile in breadth. After we had reached the other side, we had to clamber up a dike near fifteen feet high, by the help of some hurdles, which are placed there to strengthen it, and serve for a ladder. My travelling-dress was cumbersome to such a

a degree, that without the assistance of my companions, I believe I should not have been able to surmount the difficulty. Here we got into our coach again and drove to Crantz, a neighbouring village in the duchy of Bremen, and noted for the conflux of the Elbe with the little river Esse, which comes down from Buxtehude. Crantz is built on a high bank to resist the overflowing of the river, which at some spring tides overflows the land on the other side of the dike. From the banks of the Elbe to Buxtehude the distance is six English miles, thro' a detestable road, especially at this time of year. The soil is said to be fruitful enough; but the country, which chiefly consists of meadows and corn-lands, is very low, and the fields divided by deep ditches. The road is everywhere bordered with willows, or other trees; and in many places has been raised so high, that the overturning of a carriage would be exceeding dangerous. For this reason our coachman advised us several times to light. This I complied with three or four times; but, from the weight of my habiliments, it fatigued me to such a degree, that I was no longer able to walk; and I told my companions, that I would trust in Providence, and rather run the risk of breaking my neck in the coach, than expire under the fatigue of walking. Half way

way between the Elbe and Buxtehude, we passed a bridge on the Esse, at a large village called Essebrugges, and did not reach Buxtehude till noon, though our carriage was not heavy, and we had four stout horses.

Buxtehude is a small town in the duchy of Bremen, situated on the river Esse, which comes out of the duchy of Lunenburg. The adjacent country is said to be very fruitful, and to supply Hamburg with great part of its provisions. The town is pretty well built, with broad streets, and encompassed with a ditch and old walls. We staid there to dine, and met with good accommodation at the post-house. My companions were very chearful, and good-humoured; no slight comfort in so fatiguing a journey. We had taken some provisions with us; but finding tolerable accommodations at this house, it was judged proper to reserve our own stock for an emergency. Our stay was but very short at Buxtehude; for a little after two the horses were put to, and we set out for Closter-Seven, sixteen miles farther, where we intended to lodge that night. The road to Closter-Seven is but very indifferent, and the country poorly inhabited, consisting chiefly of woods and heath. We stopped a little while at the village of Arrenshoff, about half way, and did not reach Closter-Seven till eight o'clock.

A 24

Closter-

Closter-Seven is a pleasant village, furrounded by a fine wood of oak trees. It was formerly a famous monastery, which gave name to the place; and has been lately remarkable for the treaty between the Hanoverian and French armies. The church is said to be very handsome, but we came too late to see it. Our inn, I am sure, was no way handsome, being only a large barn, called the post-house. Such are the inns on the road all over the duchy of Bremen, and the circle of Westphalia. Our coachman drove directly into a large entrance, which is the only door, and the only outlet for the smoke. There is but one large room, which serves for stable, kitchen, parlour, and bed-chamber. On each side we saw cows, horses, swine, and sheep. In short, it looked like Noah's ark, filled with all manner of live beasts. In the middle of the room there was a pretty good fire of turf and wood, a most comfortable circumstance in such severe weather. At first we were almost blinded with the smoke; but after we had eaten a bit of supper, drawn from our own store, and drunk a glass of wine, we began to be chearful. Signor Gargallo is an excellent companion; the Dutch captains were very good-humoured and obliging; so that, amidst the hardship of bad roads, bad weather, and worse accommodations, we passed our evening in tolerable good spirits.

spirits. At supper we asked for some of their bread called Pompernickel, which is really a curiosity. It is made of rye coarsely ground, with all the bran left in it ; so that it looks as black as a coal. They cut it with a hatchet from a large loaf of at least a bushel, and presented it to us on a trencher. The name is said to have been given to it by a Frenchman travelling this way, who, when this coarse bread was brought to table, said, *Qu'il étoit bon pour Nicole*, which was the name of his horse. This bread nevertheless is said to be very wholesome, and they begin now to use it even at polite tables, where I have seen it served up in small slices with fresh butter. After we had refreshed ourselves in the best manner we could, Signor Gargallo favoured us with an Italian song, and then we laid ourselves down very quietly on our beds of straw. I had been so tired with my walk, that I slept as well as if I had been in a down bed. Early the next morning we were awaked with the noise of the hogs grunting on one side, and the cows champing their straw on the other ; but it was a proper time to rise, and after we had regaled ourselves with coffee, we resumed our journey.

Travelling through a flat country, mostly morafs, by eleven o'clock we reached Otterfberg, twelve miles from Closter-Seven, and half way to Bremen. I have been told that the
large

large moors about Ottersberg are very beneficial to the proprietors ; and that in the article of turf only, they, and the owners of the moors of Ostenholtz, sell annually to the city of Bremen to the value of 18,000 dollars. The moor grounds also afford good pasture, when the rivers have ceased to overflow their banks. We approached Ottersberg by a large paved road, and a long avenue set with willows. It is a small town of the duchy of Bremen, situated on the river Wemme, and tolerably well built. Here is an old castle, formerly the residence of the archbishop of Bremen. The town being surrounded by a morass, is naturally strong ; but the fortifications are old, and at present quite neglected. We stopped to dine, and met with pretty good entertainment at the post-house. The roads growing worse every day, by the great fall of snow, we were in a hurry to get away, and by one the horses were put to. The country round Ottersberg is full of canals, or branches of the river Wemme, which intermingle one with another. The road to Bremen is very sandy, and the country not much improved, till you come near Bremen : here, indeed, we saw several country-houses and boxes, which with their gardens made a chearful appearance of wealth and elegance. We reached Bremen by five o'clock, and set up at the best inn in the town, the King of Prussia's head.

Here

Here we staid two days, partly to refresh ourselves after our fatigue, in the interim consulting how to proceed the remainder of our journey. It continued to snow all the time very hard, so that the roads were grown almost impassable. I was for going by Osnabrug, and all through Westphalia; but the Dutch captains objected against the badness of the accommodations, and insisted that we should have better entertainment and better roads, were we to travel through Friseland, and embark at the Lemmer for Amsterdam. Besides, they knew the country, and being natives of Holland, they should be better able to conduct us, when we reached the Dutch dominions. These reasons appeared satisfactory to Signor Gargallo; so that I was obliged to yield to the majority. We amused ourselves those two days in viewing the town, which deserves a traveller's notice.

Bremen is a large flourishing city, situated in a great plain, on both sides of the river Weser, which are joined by a bridge 168 paces in length. It is surrounded by fortifications of no great strength, and has a garrison of 600 men. The ramparts are planted with rows of trees, and afford a pleasant prospect of the river and adjacent country. The part on the south side of the Weser is called the New Town, and consists chiefly of gardens and villas. The streets here are wider, and more regular than in the Old Town. The latter stands

on the north side of the river, and is the centre of commerce. Here are several good houses, especially near the great market-place, which is a handsome square.

Bremen is a free imperial city, governed by its own magistrates; but the duchy is subject to our king, as elector of Hanover. The established religion is that of Calvin, though the Lutherans are nearly equal. The town is governed by four burgomasters, and twenty-four senators, who form a kind of aristocracy.

The chief buildings in Bremen are the cathedral, the gymnasium or academy, the town-house, and the exchange. The cathedral is an ancient stately pile, and belongs to the Lutherans. It is famous for a vault underneath, called the Bleykeller, or Lead-cellar, where several bodies were found uncorrupted above fifty years ago. Their skins look black and shrivelled, yet one may easily discern their features. The linnen in which they were interred, is as light as tinder. The vault is about six feet below the surface of the earth, under an arch eight or nine feet high. I have heard various conjectures concerning the cause which has preserved those bodies from corruption; but none of them proved satisfactory. No other bodies, however, are suffered to be deposited in that vault. There are several other churches in this city, but no way remarkable. The gymnasium was
once

once greatly frequented, but is now upon the decline; it has, however, a very good library. The town-house is a large Gothic structure, built in 1405, and adorned on the outside with several statues of the emperors and electors. The courts of justice are extremely plain, and the lower part, or hall, is filled with different shops. Under the town-house is the wine-cellar or vault, kept for the public benefit. Here we spent the second evening in a club-room, with some of the citizens, who were very good company. The stock of Rhenish wine in this place is amazing; they have it of different growths and ages, from one year to fifty, sixty, or more. They keep it in very large casks, being improved by the largeness of the quantity in one body, and the value always proportioned to its age. My friend Signor Gargallo had like to have drawn himself into a quarrel with some of the company, by repeating the well-known distich upon the Germans, after seeing this great hoard of Bacchus's treasure.

Germani possunt cunctos tolerare labores.

O utinam possent tam bene ferre sitim!

But he got off by making an apology, and declaring it was not his intention to offend. The exchange, hard by, is an old building, with a piazza and shops, but nothing grand or beautiful. Near the bridge, are the curious water-

works, by which the town is supplied from the Wefer; and here also is a most ingenious fulling-mill. The armoury, the hospital, the work-house, and the anatomical theatre, are worth seeing.

In the middle of the market-place stands an old gigantic effigy, 14 feet high, such as one frequently meets with in several imperial cities. The vulgar imagine them to have been erected in honour of Rowland, a supposed nephew of Charlemain, which Rowland they also imagine to have been of a gigantic stature. Hence they now call them *Rowland feulen*, *Statuæ Rolandinæ*, or Rowland's Statues; and most travellers and historians have swallowed this absurd romantic story. But the truth is, that *Rowland feulen* is a corruption of the original name *Rugelands feulen*, from *Rugen*, which, in German, signifies to judge. Those statues denote, that the cities in which they have been erected, are municipal, governed by their own laws, and possessed of a judiciary power. Besides, these statues are not of a more ancient date than the end of the tenth, and commencement of the eleventh centuries.

Bremen is not above twelve German miles from the sea; but ships of burthen cannot come within two miles of the town, for oftentimes there is not above four feet water. On this account they have a custom-house six miles below Bremen, where ships are unloaded, and the goods brought up in flat-bottomed vessels. Their traffick

traffick is very considerable, especially with England, whither they send all sorts of Westphalia linens, receiving in return a great quantity of tobacco and other West India commodities, with some of our woollen manufactures. They likewise import a considerable quantity of sugar and wines from France. They have a very great inland trade with Hanover, Saxony, Silesia, Bohemia, &c. from whence they receive linen, timber, corn, and minerals. In dressing of leather and cloth they are said to be particularly skilful; and the fish which they catch at sea and in the Weser is another good article. In short, their commerce is in a flourishing state, so that the merchants make a considerable figure. They have a great number of gardens and villas round the town. The territory of the city extends about eight or ten miles, abounds with good pastures, and is well stocked with cattle.

Having seen every thing worth notice in the town, we hired another coach to carry us to Leer, in East Friseland, about sixty miles from Bremen. We set out a little after nine in the morning; and by eleven reached Delmenhorst, a small town in the circle of Westphalia, and capital of a county belonging to his Danish majesty. The town is situated on the little river Delme, from whence it takes its name. It consists of one long street, with pretty good houses. Here we made but a very short stay,

stay, to refresh the horses, and our Dutch captains comforted themselves with a copious dram. This they did regularly every time the coachman stopped for the same purpose. From thence we proceeded to Oldenburg, capital of a county of that name, and likewise subject to the crown of Denmark. This country is said to be pretty fruitful in some parts, especially about Oldenburg; but the deep covering of snow prevented our judging of the nature of the soil. The horses here, and in East Friseland, are reckoned amongst the best in Germany. We reached Oldenburg by five o'clock, and set up at an inn in the market-place, where every thing turned out to our satisfaction, except the troublesome civility of the landlord and his wife, who were both most abominably intoxicated. We resolved to go no farther that night, and it being moon-light, and the snow abated, we took a turn round the town.

Oldenburg is the capital of a county of that name, in the circle of Westphalia, pleasantly situated on the little river Hunte, which falls into the Weser. The town is very old, and the houses mostly of wood; but the streets wide and well laid out. The castle, or palace was built in 1616, of fine free-stone, and is reckoned a pretty good edifice; but we had not an opportunity of seeing it. There was formerly a good library in this castle, with several

veral curiosities, and among others, the famous horn of Oldenburg; but they have been all removed to Copenhagen. The horn abovementioned is said to be of silver gilt, and weighs four pounds. In this castle also resides the Danish governor of the county, with the title of king's stadtholder. The old counts of Oldenburg kept their residence in this town; and I need not tell you, that from those counts the present king of Denmark is lineally descended.

After a good night's repose, we set out the next morning before day, in order to reach Leer that night, which is distant thirty-five miles from Oldenburg. The snow was abated, but it freezed exceeding hard; so that with all our precautions we could scarce keep ourselves warm. We took provisions with us for the day, being told we should fare but very disagreeably till we got to Leer. The greatest part of the way is through a barren sandy country, with dreary heaths and morasses. But the snow being somewhat hardened by the frost, we began to move on with greater expedition than the day before. By ten, we arrived at Blexhuse, a miserable village, and breakfasted at the post-house. From Oldenburg to Blexhuse is twelve miles. The next stage was the village of Grotfander, on the frontier of East Friseland, a province belonging to the king of Prussia. We got there by half an hour after two, and dined at the post-house;

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here indeed we should have experienced what we were told at Oldenburg, had it not been for our own provisions. The county of Oldenburg, and the principality of East Friseland, are both in the circle of Westphalia: from thence alone you may judge of the nature of our accommodations, especially in country villages; for you have often heard these lines:

*Hospitium vile, grob brodt, dick bier, lange mylen
Sunt in Westphalia, si non vis credere loop daar*.*

The country people are extremely civil and obliging; but the several circumstances of their extreme poverty and dirt, exhibit an affecting picture of human misery. Such spectacles as these (and they are not confined to Westphalia) make me doubt very much of the truth of Rochefoucault's maxim: *Quelque difference, qui paroisse entre les fortunes, il y a neanmoins une certaine compensation de biens & de maux qui les rend egales.* The Dutch captains made a beverage of beer, brandy, and eggs, which, in that severe weather, proved very comfortable. The distance between Blexhufs and Grotfander is ten miles. We had still thirteen

* In Westphalia, you have bad inns, coarse bread, muddy beer, and long miles; if you don't believe me, go and see.

miles to Leer, where we arrived by eight o'clock: and set up at the sign of the Prince of Orange, a house of pretty good accommodation.

Leer is a handsome market-town in East Friseland, situated on the little river Leda, which, at a quarter of a league from thence, falls into the Ems. This situation renders it pleasant, and is productive of some trade. The town is built after the Dutch manner, the houses not high, but clean and neat, the streets wide and regular. The neighbouring country deals considerably in horses, the East Friseland breed being greatly esteemed.

The next morning, early, we took a turn about the town, whilst breakfast was preparing; and after a good deal of inquiry could get no other carriage to a place called Nieuschantz, on the Dutch frontier, than an open waggon. Our coachman would carry us no farther, though we offered him the most advantageous terms. From Leer to Nieuschantz is ten miles, and the road, especially in winter, excessive bad. It was a terrible mortification to us all, to think we must travel, in such weather, in an open carriage; and poor signor Gargallo lamented his hard fate in being condemned to perish untimely amidst the snows of East Friseland.

We set off in the morning about ten, and
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soon

soon reached the river Ems, but found an immense difficulty to get to the opposite bank. The Ems rises in the bishoprick of Paderborn, and running through the county of Risberg, the bishopric of Munster, and the principality of East Friseland, discharges itself into the Dollart bay, at the city of Embden. This river was full of floating ice, which rendered the passage so dangerous, that the master of the ferry refused at first to carry us over. At length, great persuasion, and upon our paying a very extraordinary freight, he consented to venture, but would take no more than two of our horses, for fear of overloading the wherry. Having got our clumsy voiture into the boat (and an Herculean labour it was) we put off under all these disagreeable, and I may say, terrifying circumstances. We had not got above half half way when a floating island came down upon us with all its weight, and broke the rope by which the men worked the ferry; so that we were left to the mercy of the ice, and an impetuous current. The consternation was great, lest we should be kept all day upon the river, and thus be frozen to death or starved. But providentially the mass of ice drove us near the banks, when the country people assembling together, came to assist us with cords and planks, and with great difficulty dragged us ashore, in a most piteous plight.

plight. After we had given thanks to the Supreme for our preservation, we got into our wagon, but were obliged to proceed with two horses only; for the ferrymen would not venture to bring over the others. This misfortune occasioned a delay of very near two hours, so that we did not get to Nieuschantz till past two o'clock. About half way between the two places is Wender, a neat little town, built intirely in the Dutch taste. The country, as we passed along, seemed to be well inhabited, and to exhibit a greater appearance of plenty and cultivation, than we had seen in any other part of East Friseland.

Nieuschantz is a Dutch word, signifying a *new fort*; it stands on the very extremity of the province of Groningen, and commands the passage into East Friseland. The fort is regular, but with only one street, consisting of a few mean houses. Without the gate is a very handsome inn, where we were well accommodated. The Dutch captains had flattered themselves with the notion, that we should be able to proceed in the treck-scoot, which sets out every day for Groningen. But I had entertained no such hopes, considering the severity of the weather; in fact, the canal was frozen up, so as to obstruct all passage by water. I should have been very glad to tarry at Nieuschantz till the next day, in order to recover myself after so much danger and fatigue; but captain Coen persuaded us to take a carriage immedi-

ately after dinner ; and as it was moonlight, and the road very good, to travel by night to Groningen, which is distant from Nieuschantz about thirty miles. We were forced to put up with another waggon, though of a more commodious construction than those in Germany : still it was an open carriage, and the frost intense. We left Nieuschantz a little after two ; but instead of a good road, it proved a most detestable one upwards of four leagues. As we advanced, we found every where that neatness for which the Dutch are so conspicuous. Indeed the country seemed to be all a garden, diversified with meadows, corn-lands, and plantations of trees. The industry of the natives shewed itself most visibly in the dikes, or banks, thrown up along the roads, to prevent inundations. We passed very near the sea, and saw several villages and corn-fields, which, within these twenty years, had been taken in from the main ocean. The boors were all uniformly clad in dark brown frize coats ; the women wore prominent caps like bonnets, no aprons, but black coarse cloth, or lindsey-wolfey ; and the countenances of both men and women spoke vigour and chearfulness. We stopped twice by the way for refreshment, and came at length to a turnpike road, by the canal of Groningen. The turnpike is a handsome iron gate, and looks like the entrance of a gentleman's garden. We
 changed

changed horses half way, drank some hot-pot, which the severity of the weather rendered necessary, and by one in the morning we reached the suburbs of Groningen. The gates being shut, we lay at a very good inn, near the town walls, well known to our postilion. I need not tell you, that we took care to refresh ourselves, and that good beds were very agreeable after so long and painful a journey.

The next morning our first business was to see in what manner we could get to the Lemmer, a small sea-port on the Zuyder sea, from whence a passage-boat sails every day for Amsterdam. But, to our great mortification, the passage to the Lemmer was quite obstructed, the canals being all frozen, and the road by land impassable, on account of the quantity of ice and snow with which the country was overspread. We then asked, whether there was any possibility of getting to Zwoll, through the bishopric of Munster; but the roads to that country were also impracticable; so that we seemed to be locked in as fast as if we had been in Siberia. I now began to repent my quitting Mecklenburg till spring; and Signor Gargallo repined at his having left Italy at all to come so far, as he termed it, into the Frigid Zone. I inquired whether there was no possibility of getting sledges, but found they are not used to this method of tra-

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velling at present, which I wonder at, having read that Morrison travelled this way in a sledge the 30th of Oct. 1592. We thought we should be obliged to winter at Groningen, that is, to stay till the frost was over, which might be a month or six weeks. In this distress we continued two days, during which we amused ourselves with seeing the city.

Groningen is the capital of the province of that name in the United Netherlands, situated three leagues from the sea, at the confluence of two little rivers, the Aa and Hunnes. Some think it takes its name from the fine verdure in the neighbourhood. The harbour is commodious, the ships entering the town by means of a large beautiful canal, with quays on each side. The town is of a round figure, encompassed with high earthen ramparts, and deep wet ditches. It is large and populous. The streets are remarkably neat and regular, the houses mostly in a straight line, and well built. There are seven gates, and three large market-places. The chief church, dedicated to St. Martin, is a slightly structure, with a very lofty steeple. The great square is one of the handsomest in the United Provinces, being 179 paces in length, somewhat less in breadth, with seventeen fine streets branching from it. The town-house, the exchange, and the weigh-house, add to its beauty. At the end of the fish-market

is the church of Our Lady, an elegant building. The university in this town was founded by the States General in 1614, and has a very good library. In one of the chambers at the prince's palace, on the north side of the city, are the pictures of all the princes of Orange and counts of Nassau, and near the palace is a handsome garden. The magistrates consist of four burgomasters and twelve senators.

The 18th instant in the evening it began to thaw, when we had some hopes that the canal of Lewarden would be opened again, especially as there had been men at work all day to break the ice. We were not deceived in our expectations ; for the next morning, after breakfast, news was brought us, that, with the utmost difficulty, a passage was made through the ice, and the treck-scoot would set out about eleven for Lewarden, distant from Groningen forty-three miles. This indeed was most joyful intelligence, and we set off at the appointed hour. It snowed very hard, and the country had a most dismal aspect. The treck-scoot, in the best of seasons, moves but very slowly, at about three miles an hour ; but, in such terrible weather, you may judge that our motion was still more tardy. However, we had a comfortable cabin to ourselves, and plenty of refreshments. The treck-scoots,

scoots, on these occasions, are armed on both sides with sharp machines of iron, to cut the obstructing ice; an operation which makes a horrid rumbling noise. Mean time Signor Gargallo entertained us with several agreeable stories, and sang some very good songs; captain Coen now and then gave us a specimen of Dutch melody. Towards night we reached Strobusch, a small town twelve miles from Groningen, and on the frontiers of Friseland. They have a great number of bridges and sluices along the canal, and the country is very fruitful. Here we made but a short stay for the people to refresh themselves, and by midnight we got to Doccum, which is about ten miles from Strobusch.

The treck-scoot being to go no farther that night, we went ashore, and lay at a pretty good house, where we were troubled with a drunken landlord. The severity of the cold is a pretext in this country for intemperance, in which they signalize themselves, drinking brandy all day long. We rested, however, pretty well, and walked about in the morning before breakfast.

1. Doccum is a town of the province of Friseland, situated on the river Aa, which forms a good harbour, and falls, about four miles lower, into a gulf of the German Ocean. It was formerly a place of some strength, but the fortifications

cations are out of repair. The streets are neat and wide, as in all the Dutch towns, and the houses well built. The town-house is a handsome structure; near it is a stone bridge so wide as to serve for a market; and the arches are high enough for the vessels, to pass under them with their masts standing. They have but one parish church, and their chief trade is in cheese. The neighbouring country abounds with corn and pasture, and is extremely well inhabited.

We set out about ten in the morning for Lewarden, and reached that city between one and two, being only eight miles. The country through which we passed, is one of the most populous I ever beheld. Within a little way of the town we could distinguish ten villages with handsome spires, all within two or three miles of each other. It still continued to snow, and we were afraid of the return of the frost; which, from the intense coldness of the air, seemed once more to threaten us. We went to lodge in the middle of the town, at a very good inn, well known to our fellow-travellers the Dutch captains, to whose officious care Signor Gargallo and I were greatly obliged, both here and in every other part of our journey.

Lewarden is the capital of the province of Friseland, situated within six miles of the German Ocean. The city is large and well built,

built, the streets clean and regular. It is of an oblong figure, furrounded with good earthen ramparts, and a very broad ditch. On the ramparts are pleasant walks, from whence we had a view of the neighbouring gardens and a well cultivated country. There are several navigable canals in different quarters of the town, which communicate with almost every part of the province, and enable the inhabitants to carry on a brisk trade with Hamburg, Bremen, Embden, and Holland. The magistrates consist of three burgomasters, and nine aldermen. The town-house is a handsome structure, the first stone of which was laid the 2d of April 1715; over the door are these words, *Pace et Justitia*. The princes of Orange have also an elegant palace in this city; this was their usual residence, before the revolution in 1747, when the present prince's father was chosen stadtholder of Holland. The principal church was built in 1487, but is no way remarkable. The church of St. Vitus was demolished in 1580, and there still remains the steeple, erected long after the old church, and detached from it, in hopes of building a new one, which was never executed. This city is also the seat of the supreme council of the province of Friseland, a court of very great authority. And here, by the way, I must take notice of a mistake of most travellers, in calling this province West Friseland, whereas it should

should be stiled Friseland! Proper. West Friseland is that part of the United Provinces, commonly called North Holland; the states of Holland always stile themselves of Holland and West Friseland.

We staid here a day and a half, in hopes of finding some opportunity to proceed to the Lemmer; but it was absolutely impracticable. In consequence of several consultations we determined to make the best of our way to Harlingen, a sea-port in Friseland, nine miles from hence, where we should find the conveniency of a passage vessel for Amsterdam. The Dutch captains were impatient to get home to their wives and children; but as Signor Gargallo and I had no such inducement, we thought it more advisable to wait a week, or a fortnight, longer at Lewarden; for the frost was now returned with double vigour, and the snows fell so thick that people were afraid the Zuyder-sea would be frozen over. We were governed, however, by our companions; so that we left Lewarden the 22d instant in the morning, and got to Franeker by ten. With great difficulty the canal was now kept open, and they told us it would not be navigable the day following. This prevented our staying there all night, lest our passage should be intercepted. We dined here at a good inn, where every thing was to our satisfaction.

tion. The treckfcoot did not fet off for Harlingen till very near dusk, fo that we had fufficient time to view the town.

Franeker is one of the prettiest and neatest towns in Frifeland, fituated on two navigable canals, within four miles of Harlingen. It is fmall, but very well built, and the ufual refidence of the chief nobility of the province. There is an ancient caſtle here, in which the governors of the province formerly refided. The magiftrates confift of fix burgo-maſters and a ſecretary. But this city is renowned chiefly for its univerſity, founded in 1585, and poſſeſſed of very great privileges. In this feat of the muſes, there have been ſeveral learned profeſſors who have done honour to it by their writings; ſuch as Adrian Metius, Pierius Winſemus, George Paſor, Sixtus Ama-ma, and Ulric Hubertus.

The treck-fcoot fet off from Franeker between four and five, and a little after fix we reached Harlingen. Captain Coen being well acquainted with the town, carried us to an inn he had formerly frequented, the ſign of the peacock. The maſter of the houſe ſpoke pretty good Engliſh, having lived ſome time in London. There was a good deal of company in the public room, moſt of them ſubſtantial burghers, and they were all fitting round a great table, drinking ſheer brandy, as we drink wine or malt
liquor

liquor in England. At my expressing a small surprise, mixed with some dislike, Captain Coen told me it was necessary to drink profusely of spirituous liquors in this country, otherwise the cold and moisture would soon destroy their constitutions. We arrived in this town the 22d, and had the satisfaction to hear that the passage-vessel would sail for Amsterdam, on Wednesday the 24th, in the morning. We passed the evening as comfortably as we could in a Dutch house, where they seldom have a good fire, and retired betimes to our respective apartments. The day following was spent in viewing the place, and taking the necessary precautions for our voyage.

Harlingen is a sea-port town of Friseland, situated almost at the mouth of the Zuyder-sea, in a country abounding with pasturage and all the necessaries of life. It is the largest, wealthiest, and most populous town in the whole province, next to Lewarden. So lately as the 12th century, it was only a hamlet, lying between two gentlemen's seats, one named *Harliga*, the other *Harns*, and from thence it seems to have taken its name. It was not walled in till 1443. It is of a quadrangular figure, with fair handsome streets, intersected with spacious canals. The houses are very high, and extremely neat. There are five gates to the town, four towards the land side, and one

one towards the harbour. The harbour is divided, within the town, into two large basens, capable of holding vessels of the greatest burthen; yet they cannot come in heavy laden, but are obliged to make use of lighters off the bar. Though they have been at the pains of raising very high dikes, to shelter the vessels; the sea seems to gain ground, and all their skill and labour cannot intirely check the impetuosity of this boisterous element. The town-house is not a large building, but very neat. There are no more than two churches, West Church, and St. Michael's. The magistrates consist of eight burgomasters, nominated annually by the sovereign court of the province. The town has a public gymnasium, with a rector and three professors, for teaching Greek and Latin. Here are likewise several manufactures particularly for sail-cloths, paper, and salt. Harlingen is also the seat of a court of Admiralty, for the province of Friseland. It is composed of four deputies of the states of this province, one of Holland, one of Gelderland, one of Utrecht, one of Overissel, and two of Groningen and the Ommelands, but none for Zealand; how this latter province came to be left out, nobody could tell me.

The twenty-fourth instant, being Christmas-eve, we went a-board the passage vessel about nine in the morning, and sailed from Harlingen with a fair wind. But there was very little of
it

it on account of the snow, which fell in fleeces. Though the burden of our bark was 80 tuns, master and mate were all our complement. I was therefore very glad that, in case of any danger, we had two supernumerary hands, my friends the Dutch captains. We saw large flakes of ice driving with the tide ; and captain Coen affirmed, that if the frost continued much longer, the Zuyder-sea would be frozen over. I told him, that I hoped this would not happen in our passage ; and he answered me, with a smile, that if it did, we should make a shift to skait to Amsterdam. I replied, that I knew not how to skait. Then, said he, there is another resource ; we can get a flying-boat, that is, a vessel contrived to skait, if I may so express it, with sails upon the ice. And such vessels, he told me, are common in Friseland, performing the passage from Stavoren to Enkhuyfen, in North Holland, when the Zuyder-sea is frozen over. We soon perceived the light-house at Stavoren, and began to be in good spirits, as now making ourselves sure of reaching Amsterdam early the next morning. Captain Coen said, if the wind continued, he hoped to breakfast on Christmas day with his mother-in-law. Mean time the weather was so very severe, that it was impossible to keep the deck ; besides, the horror of the scene could afford no sort of pleasure to the eye. An high sea, however, is sometimes a pleasing

object to me; but it is when on *terra firma*, according to Lucretius, *Suave mari magno, &c.*

'Tis pleasant, when the seas are rough, to stand

And view another's danger, safe at land :

Not 'cause he's troubled, but 'tis sweet to see

Those cares and fears from which ourselves are free.

We passed the afternoon pretty chearfully, comforting ourselves with the notion of landing the next morning at Amsterdam. Signor Gargallo was so complaisant as to sing us some excellent songs, and to repeat several sonnets from the best Italian poets; among which, the following is my favourite. I give it you, with a translation attempted at sea, which you will be so good as to excuse, knowing that *Carmina secessum scribentis & otia quarunt.*

*Uom che al remo é dannato, egrò e dolente
Co' ceppi al piè, col duro tronco in mano,
Nell'errante prigion chiama sovente
La libertà, benche la chiami in vano.*

*Ma se l'ottien, chi'l crederia ! si pente
D' abbandonar gli usati ceppi, e insano
Si vende a prezzo vil : tanto é possente
Invecchiato costume in petto umano.*

Cintia,

*Cintia, quel folle io son : tua rotta fede
 Mi scioglie, e pur di nuovo io m'imprigiono
 Da me medefmo, offrendo a' lacci il piede.
 Io son quel folle, anzi piu folle io sono ;
 Perche mentre da te non ho mercede,
 Non vendo, nó, la libertá ; la dono.*

The galley-flave condemn'd, with cries
 Deplores his galling chain ;
 To toil confign'd, the oar he plies,
 And freedom hopes in vain.

His wifh obtain'd, in haplefs hour
 He'd fain be fetter'd ftill ;
 Freedom he fells : fuch is the power
 Of habit o'er the will.

This folly, Cynthia, fure is mine ;
 Betray'd by you, I'm free :
 But freedom I again refign
 To be enslav'd by thee.

Nay greater frenzy fills my breaft,
 With lafting flames I burn ;
 Myfelf of liberty divest,
 And hope for no return.

Thus we endeavoured to beguile the time
 till ten at night, when we all fell afleep as we

fat in the cabin. We awoke from time to time in the night, and were highly amused with the mate's chearful ditties, when captain Coen, going upon deck, informed us that we were on the coast of North Holland. They kept sounding all the way, and every thing seemed to promise a prosperous voyage. But about one in the morning I was awaked with a sudden bouncing of the vessel, repeated several times. This roused our whole company; and captain Coen running instantly upon deck, called out to us, that we had just struck upon a sand-bank. At this we were up in an instant, and could perceive a light ashore, which captain Coen knew very well to be the light-house of Enkhuyfen. It seems that the mate had missed the usual channel, and got upon the shoals, which are extremely dangerous. Captain Coen was in a very great passion with the master and mate, and now took upon him the direction of the vessel. He ordered them to furl their sails, and lie in that posture till flood, which would be about six in the morning. There was no making signal in the night, and we had not even a boat to carry us ashore, in case the vessel, as we apprehended, should be staved to pieces. We were three miles from land; and what alarmed us most was the vessel's being leaky, and drawing five feet water. The wind also was very high,

high, and the snow fell so thick, that it was impossible to keep upon deck. In this situation did we lie all night, in danger every minute of being dashed to pieces. I began to regret, that I had not passed the winter in Mecklenburg, or indeed that ever I was so mad as to commit myself, at this time of year, to such a boisterous element. Repose and retirement now appeared to me the most desirable of all things ; and I could not help thinking of that fine ode of Horace, which so admirably describes the perplexity and agitation I was in at that time.

*Otium divos rogat impotenti
Prensus Ægeo, simul atra nubes
Condidit Lunam, neque certa fulgent
Sidera nautis :*

*Otium bello furiosa Thrace,
Otium Medi, &c.*

When clouds the moon's fair lustre hide,
No stars the doubtful helm to guide ;
The sailor, mid the raging seas,
Suppliant implores the gods for ease ;
For ease, the warlike sons of Thrace,
The Medes, whom shining quivers grace,
For ease, that never can be sold
For gems, for purple or for gold.
For neither wealth nor power, controul
The sickly tumults of the soul ;

Or bid the cares to stand aloof,
Which hover round the vaulted roof. *

It is common for mankind to wish for repose and retirement, even when they are engaged in the most active and most ambitious pursuits. This, however, was not my case; and the danger and distress I was then in, could by no means be ascribed to an ambitious motive. I blamed my conduct notwithstanding, for exposing myself to danger and distress without any necessity. Thus the remainder of the night was spent in melancholy reflections, till six o'clock, when we were in hopes of getting off at high water. But our hopes were vain; we were fixed; and the tide beginning to ebb, captain Coen declared, that the vessel had so buried itself in the sand, that, in his opinion, it could not be got off. It was now day-break, when he ordered a signal of distress, which was hoisting up a black crape or colours on the top of the mast. The wind grew stronger every moment, and was withal so piercingly cold, that we were almost frozen to death. In this scene of distress we saw a large boat coming towards us, which proved to be a fishing-vessel, sent to our assistance. Captain Coen proposed we

* Francis's Horace, book ii, od. 16.

should hire the boat to carry us to Horn in North Holland, and from thence travel by land to Amsterdam. As soon as we had agreed, the Harlingen skipper demanded his freight as coolly and unconcernedly as if nothing had happened. Captain Coen told him, that both he and his mate deserved to be hanged for their negligence: however, it was no time to dispute; we paid him, and got into the boat with all expedition. By the way I must take notice, that the fisherman extorted most enormously, asking forty gilders, which we paid, for engaging to carry us nine or ten miles. But this was a matter of no consideration with us at that time; if it had been 100 gilders, we should not have objected; and I only mention it as a proof of the common depravity of mankind, in taking advantage of the distresses of their fellow-creatures. The master and mate staid on board in hopes of getting off the next tide: we heard afterwards that the vessel was lost; but, it being in the day, the mens lives were saved.

We were now in an open boat, the snow greatly abated, but the wind very high, and the frost such that our limbs began to grow sensibly affected. In this great distress had we sailed about half an hour, when we fell in with a Dutch ship, bound for Amsterdam. We made a signal, which the people

ple on board perceiving, were so humane as to lie by; and in a little while we had the good fortune to come up with them. To add to our joy, captain Coen happened to know the commander of the ship, whose name was Van Dalen; and his vessel was come from Surinam, laden with coffee, sugar, and cotton. This was a most lucky incident. We were received on board with great tendernefs, accommodated with a warm cabin, and regaled with refreshments of all sorts. This very ship had lain by in the night to avoid the banks on which our vessel was stranded. There are many such shoals and banks on that coast, which makes the navigation of the Zuyder sea very dangerous. The wind being pretty fair we advanced at a good rate, and had sight of Edam and Monikendam in North Holland. We soon reached the Pampus, a shallow part of the Zuyder-sea before you come to Amsterdam, and in which there is not above ten feet water. They have a sea-mark to know when they come upon it, and another when they reach its extremity. After we had got over the Pampus, we had twenty feet water, and saw the province of Overissel on our left. This was soon succeeded by a most pleasing view of the stately city of Amsterdam. The harbour was full of ships, which appeared like a forest; and the city lying

ing in the form of an amphitheatre, afforded a prospect, noble and magnificent beyond conception. It would, indeed, be one of the finest in the whole world, had Amsterdam a greater number of lofty spires; but it is decorated with no more than four steeples, on account of the ground, which being all a morass, obliges the inhabitants to build upon piles. We landed happily about four o'clock; and the rest of the company having their friends to go to, captain Coen insisted on my lodging with him, at his mother-in-law's. The company separated, and the captain and I went to Mrs. Meyer's, whose house is pleasantly situated near the harbour. Here we had every comfort that could be desired after so fatiguing and perilous a voyage. An excellent supper was provided, and we had the satisfaction to think, that after all our hardships and sufferings, we were reserved by Providence to spend an agreeable Christmas at Amsterdam. Thus is life nothing more than a continual scene of vicissitudes; and even those who seem to be in the easiest and happiest stations, have their variations of pleasure and anxiety.

———— New turns and changes every day
Are of inconstant chance the constant arts.
Good unexpected, evil unforeseen,
Appear by turns, as fortune shifts the scene.

My

My good friend Captain Coen set off the 26th for Delft, being impatient to see his wife and children. He wanted me to bear him company; but I have been so harrassed and fatigued in my late voyage, that I am determined to stay and amuse myself a few days longer in this city. I shall then depart for Delft, whence I intend to make the best of my way for Helvoetsluys, and then for dear England. I have been in company twice, since my arrival in this city, with my friends signor Gargallo and captain Ottes; and now the danger is over, we have laughed over our fears and apprehensions on the Zuyder-sea. This verifies the observation of Tasso, which I mentioned to you in my first letter, that after a sea-voyage the pleasure of safe landing makes one forget

La noja e'l mal de la passata via.

As for an account of my passage through Holland, with the observations I may chance to make in this great city, you must have patience till I have the pleasure of seeing you in London, when I propose entertaining you with this topic, in our winter evenings conversations. I conclude at present with assuring you, that one of the greatest pleasures I have enjoyed, during my absence from England, has been that of endeavouring, by the utmost diligence

diligence of enquiry, to satisfy your curiosity; flattering myself that you will be so good as to consider this as a proof of my readiness to obey your commands, and of the sincere affection with which I shall ever remain,

Dear Sir,

Yours, &c.

F I N I S.

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E R R A T A.

VOL. I. page 126, line 1, for Merrius read Mævius. p. 201, l. 5, from the bottom, for 1374 read 1314. p. 269, l. 9, for since read during.

VOL. II. page 45, l. 4, for the principal cause read one of the chief causes. p. 117. l. penulti. for 1000,000 read 100,000. p. 345, l. 8, for Royal read Serene. p. 344, l. 8, for bed; adieu read bid adieu.

